

ENGINEERS

NEWS

Vol. 67, #9

September 2009

Job not bypassed in economic crisis

*Lincoln Bypass moves full-speed ahead
despite earlier budget problems*





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Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
Russ Burns Business Manager
Fred Herschbach President
Carl Goff Vice President
Jim Sullivan Rec. Corres. Secretary
Dan Reding Financial Secretary
William Kalani Mahoe Treasurer

Engineers News Staff
Russ Burns Editor
Carl Goff Editorial Adviser
Mandy Jessup Managing Editor
Jamie Johnston Associate Editor
Dominique Beilke Art Director

www.oe3.org

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For The Good & Welfare
By Russ Burns, business manager

Bond is the word

September is a big month for us, because it is the month when labor celebrates its own day—a national holiday held to honor our history and purpose. We are also celebrating Local 3’s 70th anniversary at the Sept. 20 Semi-Annual Event at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC), where the officers will be sworn in by International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) General President Vincent Giblin. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much the officers and I have appreciated your support and confidence over the last three years. With the help of the membership, we have come a long way and tackled many issues. I know I speak for all of us when I say we couldn’t have accomplished what we have without your support. We know that the road ahead will continue to be rough for some time, but as we have for the last three years, we will continue to look out for the best interests of our members. Please join us at the Semi-Annual as we celebrate labor, Local 3 and our great membership!

As we start our new term, the country is still in a recession. But there is work out there and more ahead as stimulus money trickles down to our four-state jurisdiction. If you look through this edition, you’ll see construction jobs, many of which focus on the environment, its preservation and the use of “green” energy in production.

This is the country’s new direction as Obama’s cap-and-trade policies limit carbon dioxide emissions, and the \$787 billion American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA) has and will continue to create these types of jobs in our industry, such as upcoming port maintenance and environmental water protection, as you will see this month in the Redding District. According to the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 49,377 jobs have been saved or created thanks to the act. For a list of contracts resulting from the ARRA, visit recovery.gov.

The “blue-green” concept, which means blue-collar jobs stemming from environmental awareness, is a boat we can’t afford to miss, because it will result in long-term jobs from long-term stimulus money. That’s why I’ve met with several environmental coalitions about job prospects and why the IUOE is going to establish new training programs to prepare workers for this green movement.

I’ve also met with legislators vying for our support in upcoming elections. By the time this goes to press, the special Primary Election for Congressional District (CD) 10 will have happened, and I hope our endorsed candidate Lt. Gov.

John Garamendi was successful. The special General Election for the seat is held Nov. 3. Politicians take our political endorsement very seriously – as they should. Local 3’s 40,000-strong contains serious voting power. It is my job to make sure they understand that we vote with our job security and the security of our families in mind. If a politician is in line with that vision, then we’re in line with him or her. Your task, then, is to get out and VOTE.

Speaking of politics, California’s budget crisis has been national news, but we were able to keep the proposal of borrowing precious transportation funds from Proposition 42 off the negotiation table. Our Unit 12 members, however, were hit hard with furloughs. We’ve been rallying against this for months (see the story and photos in this issue). I’ll keep you updated as more information becomes available. We never go down without a fight.

Bonds are something else we’re fighting for, as we officers do everything we can to secure them for projects. Most recently, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Department approved a \$2.4 billion bond for the remaining portion of the Hetch Hetchy Project. The next vote for these bonds will go before the full Board, and I’ll keep you posted on the outcome. Also: There are several bond issuances posted in our jurisdiction from the Build America Bonds program, a new financing tool created by the ARRA to allow state and local governments to obtain much-needed funding at lower borrowing costs for school and hospital projects and infrastructure. At this time, \$5.23 billion in bonds have been issued for California, \$328 million for Utah and \$232 million for Nevada.

For California, the bulk of Build America Bonds will fund roads, schools, flood control and environmental projects. For Nevada, the bulk of the bonds are going toward school improvements. For Utah, the major focus is water utilities, sewer and transit improvements.

All projects were put on hold but thanks to the bonds, projects can now begin or continue giving us much-needed jobs. Nationwide, construction is declining in monthly reports, but this bond money should help, as will the ARRA funding.

Again, I want to thank you for your positive attitudes during these tough times and your support of this administration as we forge ahead – to better times.

I wish you all a safe Labor Day and look forward to seeing you Sept. 20 at the Ranch for the Semi-Annual.

September has historic news value

Operating Engineers called to duty following terrorist attacks, Hurricane Iniki, World War II

September has been an important month for Operating Engineers, as members went to work to help during natural disasters and devastation. Because Labor Day – our holiday – is celebrated on Sept. 7, we felt it appropriate to revisit some of those tasks here, since many of these projects made history and headlines.

One of the most horrific September events is the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that demolished the Twin Towers in New York City. Although it occurred thousands of miles away, Local 3 was right there to help.

The November 2001 *Engineers News* featured longtime Local 3 member and contractor B.K. Cooper, who was dispatched from Northern California to New York six days after the attack to ensure crane rigging and safety for task forces working at Ground Zero.

“It was a tough site,” he said. “But it also became the largest and most important job I’ve ever worked on.”

At home, members swarmed local blood banks and the Red Cross.

Operating Engineers were again in the headlines after another Sept. 11 occurrence in 1992 – Hurricane Iniki, the most powerful hurricane to ever strike Hawaii.

Within days of the storm, Local 3 set up a disaster relief center on Kauai for members living there and contributed \$50,000 to the American Red Cross. Not ones to sit back in times of despair, members also registered on the out-of-work list for dispatch to the island to help.

Of course many people also associate September with the start of World War II. While the exact date varies depending on who you talk to, Wikipedia lists the start of the war as Sept. 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, ultimately starting the war in Europe. The United States became militarily involved after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Many members joined the troops, with several enlisting in the Seabees, the U.S. Navy’s construction battalions.

This included member Tech. Sgt. Frank C. Morgan, who was featured in the September 1944 *Engineers News* after returning to California to recuperate “from a nervous condition resulting from a bomb explosion in Normandy seven days after D-Day. Brother Morgan was making a road with a Cat when bombs started falling, and he was thrown four feet in the air.”

These events changed the world and the union and should be remembered this September, especially on Labor Day. (For more on Labor Day and Local 3, read the story on page 18.)



Member B.K. Cooper, left, and a Local 15A oiler at Ground Zero.

Talking Points

By Fred Herschbach, president



Live a lifestyle, not a slogan

As many of you know, Local 3 is celebrating 70 years of history this year, founded in 1939. Our 70-year history book titled *Breaking Ground* tells the story of this history and of the “ground-breaking” projects that helped build the west. To order your copy of this book, see page 21 for details.

Beyond the infrastructure of the west, Local 3 also had a large impact on the nation: More than 2,000 Local 3 members fought in World War II – many of them as part of the Navy construction battalion known as the Seabees. These founding members created the benefits, wages and labor culture we have today, and I want to thank them for their service not only to this union but to this country, as we break new ground into our 71st year in 2010.

I was reminded of our history this week, because we had a Bylaws Committee meeting. After the business of the day, we had a detailed discussion on how Local 3 members used to participate more in the union and how society’s attitude toward labor has changed. When Local 3 began, it was a common goal and struggle to build an organization for the betterment of working-class people – and that brought folks together. Today is much different. The struggle is still there: Standing up for the rights of workers and constantly taking on anti-union employers, politicians and the non-union, but what has changed is that many of us never knew a time *before* unions. We just expect its protection. We have also evolved as far as what “An injury to one is an injury to all” and “E Pluribus Unum: Out of many, one” means to us. These sayings are what our forefathers lived. Today, they are catchy slogans.

When I was coming up through the ranks, I was fortunate to work with many operators who guided me when I thought I knew everything. Right or wrong, some of the most educational days I had as a hand started about an hour before quitting time: Since I was the youngest, I was given a handful of cash and told to go to the store, buy all the beer and some ice and be back by quitting time. I made sure I was back, and the beer was cold and waiting for the hands. Then, I’d sit around for a couple of hours after work and listen (a lot of listening) to the stories from the old-timers about how it was, their experiences on jobs they had, on dirt they moved and bridges they built. I could go on for a long time about their great stories (true history), but what I’m trying to say is that sitting on the back of a pick-up listening to my brother Operating Engineers on what they did and how they did it was some of the best education I got. I took it all in and put it to use. That was my apprenticeship, and listening to the Bylaws Committee, talking about how it used to be, reminded me of that education, and it should remind all of us where we need to be.

I know times have changed, and I’m not endorsing sitting around after work and having a beer, because we just can’t do that anymore, but what I am saying is the struggles are still what they were 70 years ago: *Get involved with your union*. Be proud of what we have become. Let’s listen to the old-timers, because if there ever was a time to pull together, now is the time. Local 3 will survive the economic times, but we need each other.

Remember: Our Northern California Master Agreement is up as is our crane rental agreement and a lot of our rock, sand and gravel agreements. Many agreements were extended until 2010 because of economics in 2009. So get involved, be a part of what our brothers and sisters before us stood for and what we still stand for. One way to do this is to come to the Sept. 20 Semi-Annual Meeting at Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC). See you there.

Second Quarter 2009 Results

The slide in our nation’s economy has moderated during the second quarter of 2009, and signs are beginning to indicate that the economy has bottomed. Federal Stimulus money is beginning to flow, interest rates remain at historically low levels and housing activity for June increased for the third consecutive month. However, our membership continues to face challenges due to California’s budget and credit issues, tight lending standards and overall weak job prospects. The nationwide unemployment rate continued to rise from 8.5 percent in March to 9.5 percent in June. California and Nevada experienced rates well above this national average at 11.6 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively, whereas Hawaii fared slightly better at 7.4 percent, and Utah was again among the lowest in the nation at 5.7 percent.

During the first six months of 2009, Local 3’s membership decreased approximately 2.25 percent, with 878 fewer members than at the start of the year.

Local 3’s financial results for the first six months of 2009, although down, continue to track in line with the Administration’s overall budget projections. Revenues for January through June 2009 were down 12.1 percent versus the prior year’s first half, whereas expenses for the first half of 2009 were down 5.7 percent versus the same period in 2008. The union’s net loss for the first six months of 2009 was \$2,830,953. During this time, Local 3 took further actions to reduce costs and streamline operations. In doing so, additional layoffs were required, and a reduced work-week program was implemented at the headquarters and district offices. Nevertheless, Local 3 has still maintained its high level of service to the membership.

As we enter the latter half of the construction season, the Administration remains cautiously optimistic that work will pick up. A great deal of stimulus money for shovel-ready projects is yet to be released, and a favorable political climate still exists for infrastructure spending. With this in mind, your officers continue pressuring state and local officials to push forward much-needed construction projects which bolster our local economies, instill pride in our workforce and better our communities.

Fund Balances (\$ in millions)		
	June 30, 2009	June 30, 2008
General	\$39.8	\$40.4
Hardship	\$3.7	\$3.2
Emergency	\$10.9	\$9.8
Defense	\$4.5	\$4.0
Capital Maintenance	\$1.7	\$4.2

Second Quarter 2009 Financial Results

Unaudited - in thousands

Profit and Loss Statement

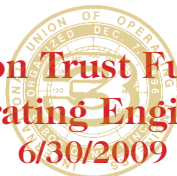
June 30, 2009: Year-to-date

Membership Revenue	\$15,272
Other Revenue	\$3,222
Total Receipts	\$18,494
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$13,380
Per Capita Taxes	\$2,594
Office & Operations	\$1,896
Depreciation	\$649
Professional Services	\$547
PACs & Fund Allocations	\$526
Admin & Public Relations	\$1,734
Total Expenses	\$21,325
Net Income	(\$2,831)

Balance Sheet (As of June 30, 2009)

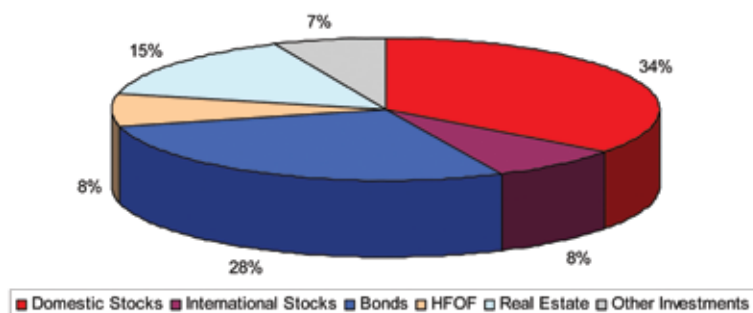
Cash, Investments & Deposits	\$31,831
Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,394
Automobiles	\$3,054
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,784
Computers & Software	\$8,973
Communications Equipment	\$913
Print Shop Equipment	\$1,102
Less Accum. Depreciation	(\$7,832)
Total Assets	\$41,219
Liabilities	(\$2)
Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,394
General Fund Balance	\$39,827
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$41,219

Pension Trust Fund for Operating Engineers 6/30/2009



Plan Assets

Total Investments	\$ 2,676,928,433
Domestic Stocks	940,762,605
International Stocks	208,951,682
Bonds	751,373,984
Hedge Fund of Funds	204,635,698
Real Estate	390,593,629
Other Investments	180,610,835



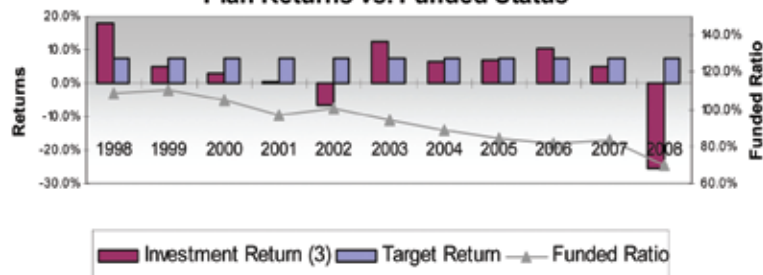
Notes:

- 1) Asset figures and returns are preliminary and unaudited.
- 2) Other Investments include an insurance contract with New York Life and operational cash.
- 3) Returns through 12/31/2007 were not calculated by IPS.

Plan Returns / Funded Status

	Investment Return (3)	Target Return	Funded Ratio
1998	17.8%	7.5%	108.9%
1999	4.8%	7.5%	110.4%
2000	3.2%	7.5%	105.4%
2001	0.4%	7.5%	96.9%
2002	-6.6%	7.5%	100.6%
2003	12.5%	7.5%	94.5%
2004	6.7%	7.5%	88.7%
2005	6.9%	7.5%	84.0%
2006	10.5%	7.5%	81.3%
2007	5.2%	7.5%	83.5%
2008	-25.6%	7.5%	69.9%
YTD 2009	2.1%	7.5%	n/a

Plan Returns vs. Funded Status



Commentary (2nd Quarter 2009):

The second quarter of 2009 ended with all major equity indices posting gains as the rally started in March carried through to June. The S&P 500 Index returned 15.9% for the second quarter and -26.2% for the trailing one year. The unemployment rate continued to climb in June reaching 9.5%, the highest rate since August, 1983. Declines were largest in the manufacturing, professional and business services, and construction industries. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has increased by 7.2 million. The Barclays Aggregate Index, which measures the broad fixed income market, returned 1.8% during the second quarter and 6.1% for the past year. Treasuries and mortgages outperformed their investment grade index counterparts as investors sought the safety of government backed issues and various federal agencies took steps to sure up the mortgage market from further meltdown.

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

News & Notes

By Dan Reding, financial secretary



Stimulus-funded jobs finally coming to California

At the time of this writing, we just finished the district picnics. Despite the current economy and gloomy work picture, the number of folks who attended the picnics this year was outstanding. I attended the Redding picnic on July 11, an event that has been one of the most popular for more than 30 years. A lot of the same people, now retirees, continue to help put the picnic on. (Honestly, *we* just help these *retirees* run the show.) Everybody who wants to help gets together the day before the picnic to prepare the meat (some of the biggest roasts you have ever seen) and put it into an underground pit that is then sealed and cooked all night. The next morning, the pit is opened, and out comes some of the best meat you have ever tasted. Some of these retirees have been doing this every year for the last 38 years. If you ever get the chance to go, it's well worth the drive to Redding. (For more on this event, read the Redding District report in this issue.)

I wish the picnics were one of many bright spots, but the truth is, we still have one of the worst work pictures many of us have ever seen. California is still dealing with budget woes, which is affecting jobs that could be putting our members back to work. Every time you turn on the TV, people are getting laid-off in every sector of the state. And right now, we are in a huge battle over the Chevron Refinery project being shut down over an environmental issue. This is a project that should have 80 to 90 operators working on it, but it is now stalled and pending a court decision. Talk about the worst possible time to stop one of the few projects going.

Remember the spotted owl they thought could only live in old growth timber? They shut down most of the lumber industry because of that, and then years later discovered that the owls really do live in other areas. Hopefully by the time you read this, the Chevron issue has been resolved and the project is back on track.

We are starting to see more stimulus money coming into the state. (For one such project, read the story about the Iron Mountain Mine on page 6.) Hopefully it will continue to increase. California has to get back on its feet, and the only way to do that is to put people back to work. The work pictures in Hawaii, Utah and Nevada seem to be picking up. Hopefully we will see that in California soon, too. Be safe.



Members support the Chevron Refinery during a Richmond City Council meeting July 28.



Blade Operator Jim Webster moves dirt for Granite Construction.



Gradesetter Earnest Wilson directs Blade Operator Jim McGinty Teesdale and Mark Clark in one of the cells.



District 70's Stimulus Package:

A mine of its own

Members go to work on stimulus-funded project to clean up Redding-area mine

Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor

What was once a gold mine has become "one of America's most toxic waste sites," but that won't be the case much longer, thanks to our members and the Federal Stimulus Package.

In June, about 20 Operating Engineers went to work cleaning up hazardous runoff from Iron Mountain Mine near Redding, Calif. From the 1860s until 1963, the site was mined at the surface and underground for iron, silver, gold, copper, zinc and pyrite. According to Wikipedia, this caused the mountain to fracture, and mineral deposits were exposed to oxygen, water and certain bacteria, resulting in extremely acidic drainage.

Because this runoff drains into several creeks that flow into the Sacramento River, the site was listed as a Federal Superfund site in 1983, meaning that by federal law, it had to be cleaned up to eliminate the risk of adversely affecting public health and the environment. Steps have been taken to protect the river, however, stagnant water remains quarantined in the Spring Creek Arm of the Keswick Reservoir and must be removed before it seeps out. The Sacramento River is a major source of drinking water for the city of Redding.

Granite Construction is a subcontractor on the job responsible for crushing aggregate

and building two large disposal cells, where the contaminants will be sealed to eliminate any threat to the river. Turn-Key Construction will lay pipeline, and Atna will build three pump stations. Dredge work will begin this fall. Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc. (ERRG) is the prime contractor on the job.

When work is completed and the problem solved: "Everything will later be taken down," explained Granite's Project Superintendent Tom McGinty. "Everything: The pumps, the pipes. Everything we're doing is a temporary deal to get things out of the reservoir."

The project was initially scheduled to take three years, but it was fast-tracked and will now take 18 months. Scraper, dozer, compactor, loader, crusher and blade operators are working long hours, sometimes six days a week, to get the job done – good news during a slow work season.

More good news: Part of the project is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – stimulus money. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received \$20.7 million in federal funds.

For additional photos from this jobsite, visit oe3.org.



The Granite Construction crew working on the Iron Mountain Mine project include, kneeling, from left: Jason Lee, Christine Emerson, Michael Karsten, Ed Hackworth and Earnest Wilson. Standing, from left: District 70 Business Rep. Bob Vanderpol, Jim McGinty, Brett Sullivan, Delene Dippel, Jim Webster, Bones Cassady, Bill Blessing, Tjay Boyer, Mark Clark, Ben Teesdale, Jimi Graham, Bill Henning, Mark Teesdale, Project Superintendent Tom McGinty, Craig Johnson, Ken Dippel, Gered Linder and Mick DeWoody.



Public Employee News

By Don Dietrich, director

Executive management gives employees bad name

At the time of this writing, California still has budget woes. I can only hope that as you read this, a state budget is in place that does not dismantle local government, but I have my doubts.

I encourage all of you to keep working diligently, be safe and hang in there. Local government is suffering just like the state is. It is easy to blame the employees for the budget woes government is suffering, and it seems to have become very popular to do so.

For those of you who are reading this and are not public employees, I want you to know that the average Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Pension being paid out is around \$30,000 a year. This does not provide medical coverage, so you can figure that out-of-pocket expenses for these retirees are between \$3,000 and \$12,000 a year, depending on how many dependents they still have at home.

It's the executive management that rakes it in. Their Pensions are in excess of \$200,000 each in many jurisdictions. As is typical, it is these numbers the media prints to incite the public against government workers. It is these government officials who decide who is going to take cuts to balance the budget, and it is rarely them who pony up. Once again, the middle class suffers the burden.

Local 3 will continue fighting the good fight on behalf of those of you who make this country work, keeping our infrastructure moving. Thank you for all that you do every day to make everyone else's life convenient.

Keeping the water flowing



From left: Fabian Palacios and Justin Hendricks work for the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department.

OE3 aids in navigation

By Prudence Slaathaug, business representative

Being laid-off is bad enough, but for one member in Santa Clara County, it kept getting worse.

A County Employees' Management Association (CEMA) member was laid-off in July 2005. He was placed in a lower classification and on a re-employment list for two years. The re-employment rights in the contract guaranteed that if a position became available in the higher class during the two-year period of re-employment, he had the right to the position.

That member called the union in 2009 and asked why he could not transfer into his former classification now that a position was open in the department. It didn't seem fair that he should have to compete for a position in a classification he once held. Not only had he been bumped out of the position at a significant loss of pay, but he felt that the chances of ever returning were slipping away.

Given just these facts, the answer was he had no right to the position since the re-employment list expired in 2007, and he only had the option to compete for the opening.

The member was not at all satisfied by that answer.

This scenario is typical of the problems members bring to the union. Often, a member has a suspicion that something's not quite right but is not sure how to pursue it or what information is important. By the time the member contacts the union, his or her level of frustration is at the breaking point.

Frequently, there is more to the story than the member reveals while expressing that frustration. In this case, the employee asked: "Why had another employee in the department been placed in my old classification?" and "How can they do that?" and stated: "This is not right. It's not fair, and I want the union to do something about it! Isn't that why I pay dues?"

Between the anger and confusion was a critical piece of information: The claim that another employee had been given a position.

As often happens, what began as a complaint about transferring

into the classification became an entirely different question: Did the county fail to place him into a position that became available during the two-year period of re-employment? And if that happened, what is the county required to do to make things right?

After putting together information from anyone who was remotely involved in the situation, the union confirmed that in January 2007, another member was transferred into the classification. The laid-off member's right to re-employment had been violated.

A grievance was filed, and the union demanded that the employee be placed in the former, higher classification with full back-pay.

The county acknowledged the facts set forth by the grievance and agreed to place the employee in the classification but expressed disbelief at the demand for lost wages. After all, didn't the union understand the financial condition of the county?

CEMA's response: The union is responsible for the financial well-being of its members, and when the county makes a mistake, the county must compensate the employee who was affected.

After several months of back and forth, the county agreed to place the employee in his former classification, and CEMA continues to pursue the wages this member lost – and will do so in court if necessary.

During these economic times, it is essential to understand and enforce the rules and procedures that govern layoffs. They are complicated, jargon-laden and incomprehensible to the average member experiencing a layoff situation for the first time.

This member feels his issue is being resolved but cannot believe how long it has taken or, once it became obvious that the county made an error, why the county thought he should just walk away from the wages he lost.

There's one thing he is sure of: He couldn't navigate this process without the help of Local 3.

Incompetence continues at the state capitol

By Rick Davis, business representative

As usual, with California's incompetent legislators in our state capitol, we are once again facing budget problems. As working public employees, you, the people who keep our city, county and state operating, are the most affected. Your state legislators will continue to be paid without any real sacrifices. They will get their fat salaries, their per diem, which, since they cannot do their job, is shameful, plus all the benefits that come with their positions at the expense of taxpayers.

What will you do about it come election time? If you're a Democrat, are you still going to vote for the incumbent because he or she is a Democrat? If you're a Republican, are you going to vote for the incumbent simply because he or she is a Republican? It is time for a huge change in our system. Didn't we just go through this last year? Are you going to continue to go through this every year? It is time to elect individuals who are going to work to make things better in California. Obviously our current legislators are not getting the job done. When election time comes around, ask yourself: Do you really want the same person in office who has done nothing but put us in deep debt without knowing how to fix it?

In other news, things are getting worse within my units. Between cutbacks, layoffs, furloughs and threats from the state to steal more tax funds, there are not a lot of positive things to report, and the longer it takes the incompetent legislators to solve our budget problems, the worse it will get. Counties cannot make decisions as to what to do with their budgets without knowing how badly the state is going to reduce their funds. This is negatively affecting employees' pay, benefits and working hours.

Most of my units are still in negotiations, but by the time you read this, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors will have imposed contracts on my trades and crafts, probation and corrections units.

It looks like negotiations in Plumas County are winding down with a vote by the membership. I was able to stop any takeaways and kept health benefits at status quo. The health benefit was a big deal, because the county wanted to lessen its contribution and make the employees pay more. Another positive outcome of these negotiations was the hours-worked definition. The county decided to keep the language the same, but I am sure, when we are back at the table in seven months, the definition of hours worked will once again raise its ugly head.

In Alpine County, negotiations are starting once again. We have met a couple of times with some initial proposals, but I expect things will drag out for the next three to four months, maybe longer. Alpine County likes to negotiate almost year-round, so it is a never-ending job. It does not look like the county is in any position to put forth a significant proposal. The best thing I can hope for, with the state threatening to remove the gas-tax money, is no significant takeaways.

There are many more things going on, some in Sierra County with the courts and miscellaneous employees' units and negotiations in the El Dorado Transit unit, but I will have to cover those issues in my next article. Until then, hang in there. We have to believe things are going to get better. Be safe and take care.

Alameda County Superior Court sends a sobering message

By Alan Elnick, business representative

Despite advice from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to avoid layoffs at all costs, the Alameda County Superior Court announced layoffs of nearly 10 percent of its workforce, including more than 70 court employees. While the layoffs are bad enough, the court also announced it is no longer abiding by its previous policies and rules regarding demotion, recall and reemployment rights of employees. As a result, employees with 20 or more years of service received layoff notices that went into effect June 26.

Until 2001, court employees were also county employees and subject to the rules of the county civil service system, which provided layoff, recall and reemployment rights of employees. The courts separated from their respective counties in 2001 under a state reorganization plan and the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act, simply referred to as "the Act." Under the Act, employees were protected against the loss of benefits because of the separation, and employee organizations were also able to directly negotiate court wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for represented court employees, as long as they respected the rights through prior contracts, rules and policies adopted by the court. This is where the court decided to deviate from the law.

In 2003, a round of layoffs occurred at the Alameda County Superior Court, and after discussions with representative employee organizations, the court adopted a layoff policy consistent with the requirements of the Act and supplemental to its existing rules. The court has bargaining units represented by the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU), the Alameda County Management Employees' Association (ACMEA) and the California Official Court Reporters' Association (COCRA). As the state budget situation deteriorated in late 2008 and early 2009, the court entered into new Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with its employee organizations.

In its negotiations with SEIU, the Alameda County Superior Court entered into an agreement that changed the order of layoffs prohibiting the use of seniority for displacement of newer employees outside the classification an employee currently held. For instance, employees represented by SEIU who formerly held tenure in another classification not affected by the layoff could no longer exercise their seniority to displace newer employees in their former classification. Additionally, the court entered into an agreement with SEIU that provided that employees who left any classification for longer than six months lost any seniority they held in that classification. According to the court, the effect of these agreements prohibits employees in other represented units to demote or transfer to their former classifications, represented by SEIU, in the event of layoffs. The court no longer recognizes its obligations to negotiate material changes in the terms and conditions of employment for its other represented employees. The court holds that it is no longer obligated by its existing policies and rules, and in this matter, the law itself.

For efficient operation and service to the community, the Alameda County Superior Court relies on the knowledge and experience of its employees. The court's agreement with SEIU has left the court with inexperienced hands to run its operations, and now the incentive for employees to promote within the court is severely hampered – who would want to promote if in times of economic distress they find themselves out the door after garnering years of service? An additional irony is that SEIU disadvantaged a number of its own members by entering into these agreements and removing the benefits garnered by their service.

ACMEA is challenging the Alameda County Superior Court's decision in the political realm by contacting the judges, the AOC and the chair of the Senate judiciary committee. If necessary, a legal challenge will be filed. The broader question remains: What is the message to society if even the court will not abide by its contracts, rules and laws?



Credit Union
By Jim Sullivan,
Credit Union secretary/financial officer & recording - corresponding secretary

OEFCU: Service of a small credit union, convenience of a large establishment

Historically, credit unions only offered savings accounts and consumer loans. Many have expanded their services, particularly the larger credit unions, during the past few decades in response to their members' changing – and more sophisticated – financial needs. Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) is one of them, developing financial services from checking accounts to home loans, credit cards, debit cards, IRAs and share certificates – products and services our members need to thrive in today's world.

Credit unions may look like banks, because they both offer financial products and services to consumers, but that's where the similarities end. As cooperative organizations, credit unions solely exist to meet their members' financial needs, not to make a profit off of them. In fact, after expenses are paid and reserves are set aside, credit unions return their "profits" to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher savings rates and free or low-cost services. This is how OEFCU can typically offer better rates to their members. For-profit financial institutions, such as banks, exist to generate profits for a relatively small group of stockholders at the expense of their customers.

OEFCU is not just known for its outstanding service. It's also known for its strong financial condition. OEFCU is well-capitalized, well over the requirement of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF). This federal fund insures credit union deposits and continues to be the strongest deposit-insurance fund in the nation.

A real account from an OEFCU staff member:

"Members I met at the recent car sale we had have their checking, savings, loans and money market accounts with OEFCU. They have used the Credit Union for car loans and for our mortgages. His daughter and son even have their accounts with us. In short, OEFCU is intimately involved in the success of their household and life in general!"

OEFCU provides the personal service of a small credit union with the strength, sophistication and convenience of a large establishment. It is a full-service financial institution with a family atmosphere! If you'd like to become part of our OEFCU family, please contact us at (800) 877-4444. Visit our Web site – oefcu.org – for more information on our products and services.

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Members' children win big with scholarships

Nicholas Ortega, Remington Price, Michael Devengenzo and Felicia Jin: Congratulations.

These four deserving students were this year's Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund winners. First-place male and female academic winners, Ortega and Price, each received \$6,000 for their education; second-place winners, Devengenzo and Jin, received \$5,000. Business Manager Russ Burns, President Fred Herschbach, Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan, Financial Secretary Dan Reding and I presented three of the four winners with plaques at the July 26 Executive Board meeting in Alameda. (Jin was unable to attend the event but was given her plaque at a later date.)

This was a special event for these kids, their families and for me. I know firsthand how important scholarships are, as I put my own two daughters through school. Local 3 has always valued furthering one's education, not only at our own Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) but at colleges and universities too. A good education isn't cheap, and any help is appreciated, especially during these hard economic times. The Scholarship Fund has recognized this need and rewarded members' children since 1965.

As always, this year's winners boast impressive resumes in academics and extracurricular activities, but Ortega's

story stood out for me. Not only did the 2009 Hercules High School graduate serve as president of his high school's math club, but he has unique insight into the world of labor.

Nicholas' father is 28-year member Charles "Chuck" Ortega, a mechanic who worked at the same shop for years before rat company Valley Power North took over, triggering the union's longest strike. Members walked the picket line day after day for more than 90 weeks until the company's San Leandro facility finally closed its doors on April 1. Nicholas' father never crossed the picket line and instead started a business of his own, Admiralty Diesel Services, Inc. He is a good union man who remains in good standing with Local 3 today.

Also unique to the Ortega family: Nicholas' brother, Christopher Ortega, earned the Scholarship Fund's second-place award in 2006.

Nicholas' winning essay discussed the history of labor and Local 3, a very timely topic as Local 3 celebrates its 70th anniversary this year with a history book, still available for purchase. (To order a copy of the book, see the ad inside this edition.)

As these students start the next chapter to their own book, I congratulate them once again.



Business Rep. Randy Johnese presents second-place female recipient Felicia Jin with her plaque.



From left: President Fred Herschbach, Business Manager Russ Burns, first-place male recipient Nicholas Ortega, second-place male recipient Michael Devengenzo, first-place female recipient Remington Price, Vice President Carl Goff, Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan and Financial Secretary Dan Reding attend the July 26 Executive Board meeting in Alameda.



Looking at Labor

By William Kalani Mahoe, treasurer

Going to Guam

Aloha Local 3 members.

Under Business Manager Russ Burns' vision and leadership and with support from the other officers, we have been moving ahead with our plan of pursuing Guam as an avenue for getting members back to work. By the time this issue comes out, I will have traveled to Guam and back with International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Rep. Richard Spencer in order to assess its job opportunities for our members.

If all goes well, Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's estimated \$54 billion worth of construction could dramatically help our work situation as well as the economy.

Below are some requirements lawmakers adopted regarding Guam construction and the transfer of 8,000 Marines from Japan:

- * Construction must meet U.S. federal standards
- * Minimum wage standard for all construction workers in Guam will be at the prevailing wage level for similar projects in Hawaii
- * The full authorization of a military hospital on Guam at \$446 million
- * At least 70 percent of the construction work force made up of U.S. citizens (30 percent cap on foreign workers)

These requirements could help get several members back to work making a livable wage, which is why we are strongly pursuing the Guam work situation.

I cannot stress enough that the most important factor in turning this economy around is getting members back to work. Please look for a follow-up article detailing our trip to Guam in the next issue of *Engineers News*.

Thank you all for your continued support.



Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director

Federal benefits for veterans, dependents and survivors

For members and their dependents who have served in the military, the following is information from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

VA health care

VA operates the nation’s largest integrated health-care system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers and various other facilities. For more information on VA health care, visit va.gov/health.

Basic eligibility

A person who served in the active military, naval or air service and was honorably discharged or may qualify for VA health-care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health-care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Minimum-duty requirements

Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980 or entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981 must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum-duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early-out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Enrollment

For most veterans, entry into the VA health-care system begins by applying for enrollment. To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ Application for Health Benefits, which can be obtained at any VA health-care facility or regional benefits office, online at va.gov/1010ez.htm or by calling (877) 222-VETS (8387). Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health-care facilities anywhere in the country.

Veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system are afforded privacy rights under federal law. VA’s Notice of Privacy Practices, which describes how VA may use and disclose veterans’ medical information, is also available online at va.gov/vhapublications/viewpublication.asp?pub_ID=1089.

The following four categories of veterans are not required to enroll but are urged to do so to permit better planning of health resources:

- * Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more
- * Veterans seeking care for a disability the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, but which VA has not yet rated, within 12 months of discharge
- * Veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability only
- * Veterans seeking registry examinations (ionizing radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War/Operation Iraqi Freedom and Depleted Uranium)

For more information, please visit the VA Web site at va.gov or call (800) 827-1000.

Making vision benefits ‘clear’

What are my vision care benefits?

Vision care benefits are provided by Vision Service Plan (VSP) and include coverage for an annual eye examination and glasses. Examinations and lenses are available once in a 12-month period. Frames are available once in a 24-month period.

How do I use my vision care benefits?

Call any VSP doctor for an appointment, and identify yourself as a VSP member. If you need help locating a VSP doctor, call (800) 877-7195 or visit vsp.com. VSP will need your Social Security number and the name of the group plan: Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund. You no longer need to obtain a benefit form from VSP before receiving services. Just make an appointment. Then, the doctor will contact VSP to verify your eligibility and plan coverage and will obtain proper authorization.

You will pay \$7.50 for all covered charges, and VSP will pay its portion directly to the doctor. You will be responsible for additional services and materials not covered by this plan.

What happens if I don’t use a VSP doctor?

You will be subject to the same time limits and \$7.50 deductible as described for VSP panel doctors, and you will be reimbursed in accordance with a schedule, however, there is no assurance that this payment will be sufficient to cover your charges. Contact VSP for assistance in filing your claim at the number listed above.

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT STUDENT STATUS

Members covered by the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund with dependent children between the ages of 19 and 23 should submit proof of full-time student status at the beginning of each semester or quarter to ensure uninterrupted coverage.

Retiree Association Meetings

The Retiree Association Meetings begin this month. Local 3 officers look forward to joining retirees and their spouses for concise reports, good refreshments and plenty of fellowship. See below for a schedule of these meetings.

SUISUN CITY
Sept. 8 2 p.m.
Veterans’ Memorial Building
427 Main St.

RENO
Sept. 9 2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

BURLINGAME
Sept. 22 1 p.m.
Transport Workers’ Union Hall
1521 Rollins Road

UKIAH
Sept. 22 2 p.m.
Hampton Inn
1160 Airport Park Blvd.

FREEDOM
Sept. 24 10 a.m.
VFW Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.

CONCORD
Sept. 9 10 a.m.
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

SALT LAKE CITY
Sept. 10 2 p.m.
IBEW Hall
3400 W. 2100 S.

ROHNERT PARK
Sept. 22 10 a.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive,
Ste.100

OAKLAND
Sept. 24 10 a.m.
Oakland Zoo – Snow Building
9777 Golf Links Road

MORGAN HILL
Sept. 24 2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

Pipe dreams

Members flow into Tracy for PCL's water-treatment project

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor; photos by Dominique Beilke, art director

While PCL Project Manager Ken Slota calls the project "quite simple," the Tesla Treatment Facility project is a first on many levels.

Most notably, the \$81.3 million, two-year project is the first design-build project for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which means the plans are designed as work goes along, as opposed to waiting for a full report before bidding on a project and then starting construction. This concept gets people back to work faster.

The concept of the project is also a first as new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards now require water be treated for cryptosporidium, a parasite found in "raw" water that can effect the intestines. The Tesla Treatment Facility will check for this parasite using a state-of-the-art ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. The project includes a chemical-feed facility and a carbon dioxide injection facility. An estimated 315 million gallons of water will flow through the system every day. This will be the largest UV water-treatment facility in California; the third largest in the country.

Operating Engineers have been on the job since April, working on the intricate pipe system that will divert water from the existing San Joaquin Pipeline through the facility. Once treated, it will be returned to the pipeline and eventually feed San Francisco users.

One of the key elements of the project is the large diameter of pipe. About 975 linear feet of 144-inch steel pipe will feed the facility, and more than 400 feet will discharge water from the facility – 210 feet of 120-inch pipe and 200 feet of 84-inch pipe.

The risky part of the project, according to Slota, is the tie-in, which is set to take place in January. With less than a month to get it done, operators will be on a tight deadline as they stop the flow of water through the existing lines.

The entire project will be completed by March 2012, when the EPA requirements take effect.

PCL was one of three companies that bid on the job, and we're excited to welcome the company back to Northern California. Subcontractors on the job include Teichert (earth work), Rosendin (electric) and R&W Concrete (structural, concrete and paving).

This facility is part of the \$4 billion Hetch Hetchy Program. While not all companies involved will be signatory, District 30 Business Rep. Greg Flanagan is proud to say that Local 3 has been instrumental in

getting a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for all Hetch Hetchy projects, ensuring union work and Local 3 jobs. Vice President Carl Goff has worked at making this happen since 1999. Because of these efforts, any Hetch Hetchy project more than \$5 million will be union.

For more photos, visit Local 3 online at oe3.org.



Members working on a pipebed in June include Scraper Operator Travis Adams, Blade Operator Ken Wainwright and gradesetters Tom McCann and Louie Luna.



Crane Operator Bill White and Oiler Ray Schenone place a 40,000-pound section of pipe.



**Rancho Murieta
Training Center**
for apprentice to
journey-level operators

By Tammy Castillo,
director of apprenticeship

Employers are paying for quality apprentices – are you up to the standard?

It's that time of year again – time for Supplemental Related Training (SRT). I occasionally receive calls from apprentices, family members, journey-level operators, foremen, superintendents and even employers as to why apprentices must attend their mandatory training. Training is a mandatory state and federal requirement. We have raised the bar at Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) when it comes to training, and everyone needs to get on board. Times have changed, and we need to change with them. In order to compete in today's market, training should always be the priority for everyone so we can supply our signatory employers with top-notch, qualified individuals.

2009 tentative SRT schedule:

- Sept. 14-Sept. 25
- Sept. 28-Oct. 9
- Oct. 12-Oct. 23
- Oct. 26-Nov. 6
- Nov. 9-Nov. 20
- Nov. 23-Nov. 27 (Holiday)
- Nov. 30-Dec. 11

A message to our journey-level operators: Six Steps to Mentoring

1. Identify the point of the lesson
Say what you are teaching
2. Link the lesson
Link this skill to other lessons and the trade
3. Demonstrate the skill
Show how to perform the skill
4. Provide opportunity for practice
Have the apprentice use the skill repeatedly
 - * Guided practice
 - * Independent practice
5. Give feedback
Tell how the apprentice is doing with the skill
 - * Supportive feedback
 - * Corrective feedback
6. Assess progress
Tell how the apprentice is doing in the trade

Mentoring is not about training someone to take your job but to help them advance their skills in order to compete against non-union employers.

Mechanics Corner

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

Filtering through the madness

The worst enemy of the engine, transmission or hydraulic system is dirt or contamination, which leads to accelerated wear and reduced service life. The filter's job is to promote long component life through filtration. According to Wikipedia, filtration is a mechanical or physical operation used for separating solids from fluids (liquids or gases) by interposing a medium through which the fluid can pass, but the solids (or at least part of the solids) in the fluid are retained.

Typical filtration takes place within the filter. When fluid enters the small openings along the outside diameter of the filter, there is less restriction, because the surface area on the outside is greater than the inside. Contaminants are separated as they pass through the filter media, and the fluid exits through the large center opening. A common practice is to pre-fill a filter before installation by filling it through the large opening in the center. This practice can introduce unfiltered oil into the system.



Most filtration systems are considered flow-flow when 100 percent of the fluid passes through a filter as it circulates through the system. A bypass-filtration system diverts a small percentage of the fluid through the filter, while the remaining unfiltered fluid is sent to the system.

Filters can be classified as surface or depth, depending on how they remove contaminants.

Surface filters trap larger particle matter on the surface of the filter media and are usually made of fine wire mesh as found on suction or magnetic screens.

Depth filters are thicker to trap fine particle matter. Because filter media has such a variety of shapes and sizes, contaminants have a difficult time passing through. The most common filter media is a pelted paper as found in engine oil, transmission and hydraulic filters. Depth filters can also be classified as *adsorbent*

or *adsorbent*. Equipment filters are typically *absorbent* filters that function mechanically by trapping the contaminants in the filter media. *Adsorbent* filters function in the same manner, but the filter media is chemically treated, which allows the *adsorbent* filters to remove contamination caused by oil oxidation and deterioration. *Adsorbent* filters should only be used where specified, because desirable oil additives may also be removed.

The two common types of filters found on equipment are canister and cartridge filters.



Canister/Spin-On

Canister or spin-on filters contain a filter media permanently sealed within the housing. Spin-on filters are disposable. Canister filters have a low (150 psi working and 300 psi burst) to medium (500 psi working and 1,000-1,500 psi burst) pressure range. Working pressure is the normal operating pressure the filter is subject to under normal working conditions, and burst pressure is the minimum pressure the filter can withstand without deforming to the point of failure. Burst pressure is typically twice the normal working pressure of the filter.



Cartridge

Cartridge filters are filtering media assemblies that can be replaced within the filter housing. The housing can be reused, thereby reducing the amount of waste and costs. Cartridge filters do not have a burst-pressure rating, because the pressure is contained by the filter's housing.

Stay tuned: Next month's article will continue the discussion of filters and their performance ratings.

FIELD PERSPECTIVE:

What the members are saying

Why did you join Local 3?

"Grandpa wants me to learn everything about the business, including running all the equipment."

– Kyle Johnston, new member



"Grew up in a union family, and I love the work, benefits and everything. Plus, you get to work with qualified people."

– Rod Roup, 24-year member



"A better life for my whole family. I tell my son he should be a gradesetter."

– Martin Ferrer, three-year member



"My whole crew was going union."

– Frank DeBenedetto, five-year member



Bridging history

Retiree worked in Afghanistan, Iran in the 1950s

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

As one of Local 3's oldest members, 96-year-old Retiree Roy Kingery has firsthand knowledge of many historical events, from Local 3's founding in 1939 to the current War in Iraq.

Kingery joined the union in 1941, so the list of projects he's worked on is long and impressive, but some of his most intriguing stories revolve around contracts for Morrison-Knudsen that sent him to Afghanistan for about three years, Iran for four and Taiwan for two in the 1950s.

In Afghanistan, Kingery worked as a superintendent on the Kajakai Dam in the Helmand Valley, a place that, more than half-a-century later, was (Desert Storm) and is a violent war site. In Iran, he worked on the Karaj Dam.

"He trained all the natives over there – cranes, shovels ... he ran every piece of equipment on the jobsite," said his wife, Pauline. "We were exactly where they're having trouble right now."

It was a different time then, but "they've been fighting in those countries forever," said Pauline, who went overseas with her husband and their two children, son Dennis and daughter Randi. The children attended boarding schools in Quetta, Pakistan and Tehran, Iran. After graduating, Randi worked alongside her father as a secretary at the dam site in Iran.

While his son also got involved with his father's work overseas – "In Afghanistan he was training operators to run shovels

... I was about 10 years old, and my dad had me operating a shovel too." – he would really get involved later when the family returned to the states. Dennis joined Local 3 in 1960 and worked on jobs throughout

Northern California with his father in the summers while attending college. He eventually became a civil engineer.

Roy continued to work for Morrison-Knudsen in Yuba City until retiring in 1971 and eventually settling in Wickenburg, Ariz., where he and his wife live now.

While his location changed often, one thing remained constant: "My dad's been union all his life," said his son.

"He paid his dues when he was overseas," adds his wife.

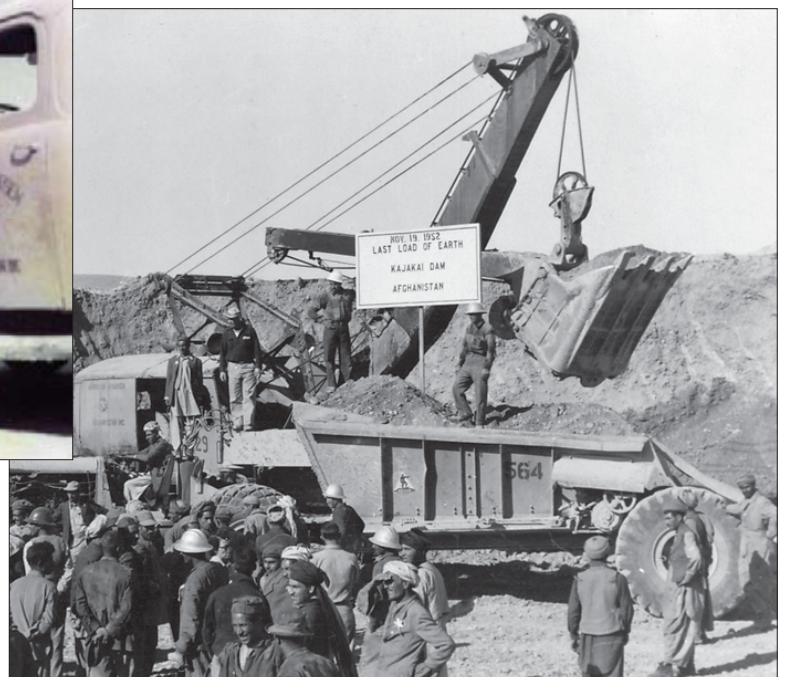
Other memorable projects throughout Roy's career include the Shasta Dam, the Western Pacific Railroad realignment in Oroville and missile bases in California where he helped build silos. Although he's retired now, he's still involved with the union, most recently with Local 3's 70th anniversary book "Breaking Ground." He helped in the researching of the book, as he's seen much of the union's history firsthand. (This book is still available for purchase. To order a copy, see the ad in this edition.)



Retiree Roy Kingery.



Roy Kingery stands in front of his Morrison-Knudsen truck at the Kajakai Dam in Afghanistan in 1952, and, at right, among his crew.



Job not bypassed in economy

Lincoln Bypass moves full-speed ahead despite earlier budget problems

Story and photos by Mandy Jessup, managing editor

Almost a year ago, Local 3 members gathered at the site of the Lincoln Bypass, the nearly 12-mile stretch of new freeway from Lincoln in Placer County to Sheridan, in an effort to keep the \$325 million project from being shut down because of California's budget shortfall. Mission accomplished: The big project continues with more than 80 craftspeople employed by main contractor DeSilva Gates and subcontractor Flatiron Construction. Members work steady hours building 19 bridges (stretches), six sound walls, three retaining walls and five boxed culverts to alleviate traffic.

Aerial views of the project show several worksites with different skills being utilized. Excavators dig

coffer dams and haul dirt for bridge abutments (550 loads per day); foremen oversee borrow sites imported from the Auburn ravine; mechanics ready equipment; gradesetters lay stake; and at the materials handling site, tons of base rock is crushed, monitored and moved.

A closer look reveals focused operators, such as 29-year member Evan Trujillo, this month's highlighted operator. A crane operator who's been on the job since April, Trujillo prefers the open space of this project to busy Bay Area freeway work. He operates a 1974 Manitowoc with no air conditioning in the cab, but he doesn't mind – he's just happy to be working.

According to Flatiron's Bill Auston, Trujillo is

"very conscientious" and "a good operator and a good person."

At the project's opening ceremony, Twelve Bridges Construction Co. also smiles at the project's progress. The company has created: "a new way of thinking about infrastructure."

Scrapper Construction Co. travels 280 miles a day to be on this project. The company levels ground and moves rock.

The well-known project is because of the project's progress. The company is happy about the project's progress. The company is happy about the project's progress.



From left: Oiler Apprentice Jesse Rigby and Crane Operator Evan Trujillo work for Flatiron Construction.



DeSilva Gates' Plant Operator Steve Copeman.



Earth-moving equipment, such as this dozer, finishes the Coon Creek overpass at the DeSilva Gates materials handling site in Lincoln.

From left: Oiler Apprentice Jesse Rigby and Crane Operator Evan Trujillo prepare to drive pile for the Coon Creek overpass as Excavator Operator Von Marquez digs a coffer dam.

mic crisis

blems

entious” and one of the steadiest crane
ound.

materials handling site near Lincoln’s
ges, Scraper Operator Adam Sisneros
about the steady work the Lincoln Bypass
“I’m an operator who still loves it.”

Operator William Vieselmeyer is too. He
miles round-trip every day from Merced
s job. At the materials handling site, he
d as loaders feed the crusher with base

known bypass was not, in fact, “bypassed”
budget cuts, and area residents are
t it – though maybe not as happy as the
hose skills may very well get the project
ier than the 2012 finish date.



Excavator Operator David Wells helps load about 330 trucks a day at the Auburn ravine borrow site for the Lincoln Bypass project.



DeSilva Gates Mechanic Ken Davis, a 26-year member, works on a D8 dozer that blew its transmission hose.



Gradesetter Ernie Miller.



day at the



Loader Operator Rob Rebar, also on cover, loads the crusher at the DeSilva Gates materials handling site.



DeSilva Gates' Plant Operator David Kruenegel.



Fifteen-year member Mechanic Ed Alves replaces a hose on a D8.



Scraper operators at the DeSilva Gates materials handling site include John Nieto, Adam Sisneros and William Vieselmeyer.

Labor Day not always a day of rest

Current and past members contribute during long-running holiday

By Mandy Jessup, managing editor

“Let the workers organize. Let the toilers assemble. Let their crystallized voice proclaim their injustices and demand their privileges. Let all thoughtful citizens sustain them, for the future of labor is the future of America.” – John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organizations (CIO), during a famous Labor Day speech on Sept. 7, 1936.

While Labor Day has historically been an occasion for political speeches and fiery testimonies from the working class about corporate corruption, it is commonly known today as a day of rest – a day of parades, family barbecues (see page 30 for some ideas) and the end of summer.

It has been celebrated on the first Monday in September in the United States since the 1880s, but ironically enough, in an article from the September 1943 *Engineers News* (the first year the publication was printed), Local 3 “did not rest on this Labor Day. It devoted its energies, know-how and initiative to the production of war materials in such volume that our fighting men will be invincible in the offensives ahead. The working men of this

country are producing for attack.” Operators fought abroad and produced at home for their country, and they continued to encourage one another to buy war bonds.

This Labor Day, Sept. 7, operators may fight another foe: Traffic, as they prepare to close the Bay Bridge span – if the wind stays calm as they replace a 288-foot section of the double-decker roadway. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, this will be done 150 feet in the air.

The \$6.3 billion project started after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake ravaged the San Francisco Bay Area and caused a collapse to a portion of the span. By 2013, the bridge should be completed and fully able to withstand another earthquake, should one come to pass.

Burlingame District Rep. Ken Oku said: “This project has gotten a lot of media attention, and our guys are out there.”

What will you be doing Labor Day? Probably not traveling across the Bay Bridge!



Members begin work on the Bay Bridge after the Loma Prieta earthquake in October 1989 – work that continues 20 years later.



During the 2007 Labor Day Weekend closure, the bridge was closed in both directions to allow workers to replace a 350-foot section of roadway.



A view of the new and existing bridges in September 2008.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

To be 6 again

An operator was sitting on the edge of the bed, observing his wife looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was coming up, he asked what she'd like to have.

"I'd like to be 6 again," she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her birthday, her husband got up early, made her a nice, big bowl of Lucky Charms and then took her to Six Flags. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: The Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Monster Roller Coaster – everything there was.

Five hours later, they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling, and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda and her favorite candy, M&Ms. What a fabulous adventure!

Finally she wobbled home and collapsed into bed half sick and exhausted. He leaned over with a big smile and lovingly asked: "Well dear, what was it like to be 6 again?"

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed.

"I mean my dress size, you fool!"

On the Darker side

Chocolate, that is.

While there's been information circulating that Hershey's has outsourced all its products, it is inaccurate. Members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Miller (BCTGM) proudly make many Hershey's candies in Pennsylvania.

So if you need a chocolate fix, try these Hershey products that are all union-made:

- *Cadbury Eggs/Cadbury Fruit and Nut Bars
- *Caramello Bars
- *Chocolate Bars
- *Dairy Milk BarKit Bars
- *Flavored syrups
- *Kisses
- *Rolos

FUNNY PHOTO OF THE MONTH



As seen on a member's car door.

Unit 12

By Gary Rocha, business representative

There's more than jumping frogs in Calaveras County

To many, Calaveras County is famous for its Mark Twain-inspired jumping frog contest. But Unit 12 members have more to look after than frogs, such as safety in the Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Most recently, Unit 12 members attended a mower-safety-training class sponsored by Operating Engineers to gain safe motor skills when operating tractor and rear-mounted mowers.

Member Toni Hall also has safety in mind in Calaveras County. She checks all vehicles and collects fees from those entering the Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Calaveras County Park Aid Toni Hall collects fees at the gates and monitors vehicles coming in and leaving the Calaveras Big Trees State Park.



The Calaveras Mower Safety Training class includes Juan Nunez, Brian Owens, Jared Devich, Doug Johnson, Toby Barber, Heather Bowers, Bobby McDonald, Jason Hart, Gil Benson, Devin Johnson, Trinidad Magana, Galen Miller, Ron Schuppman, Carey Tolleson, Kevin Donohoe, Corey Henderson, Eric Cardiel, Jonathon Dedich, Scott Cereghino and Heather Coffman.

Fresno member joins Army

There's no question District 50 member Daniel Juarez is a team player. At home, he teams up with wife Breana to care for their two sons – Julian, 2-1/2, and Matthew, 4 months. At work, the third-step apprentice teams up with his fellow Local 3 brothers and sisters to get the job done, which has meant working with his father, seven-year member Alfonso Juarez, a foreman for Foster & Sons.

In his latest team move, Daniel joined the Army on June 2. He'll begin his 12-week training in South Carolina in October and continue his training as a field artillery data specialist in Oklahoma. "Then I'll get stationed wherever they send me," he said, committing

to three years and 22 weeks. When his time ends, he plans to return to Local 3.

"I'm excited," he said, counting down the days until he leaves.

When *Engineers News* caught up with him, the Madera resident was working as a gradesetter for Teichert on the Fresno Airport job.

His father, who is working on the paving job at Madera Prison, said "I'm real proud of him" and "I think I taught him a lot." Now it's his son who's doing the teaching as he shows the rest of us what team work is really about.

We wish him well and anticipate his safe return.



Third-step Apprentice Daniel Juarez was recruited by the Army and will begin his training in South Carolina in October.

Local 3 represents at statewide rallies

The California state budget has finally been “balanced,” but Unit 12 members don’t feel any sense of ease over this long-awaited event. According to the *Sacramento Bee*: “The budget calls for borrowing \$2 billion from cities and counties and takes another \$1.7 billion from local redevelopment agencies.” Since February, state workers have taken a 14 percent reduction in hours and pay resulting in difficulty fulfilling their duties, since all are operating with less, more of the time.

Days before the budget was passed, Local 3 let its voice be heard opposing these furloughs and budget cuts at statewide rallies held at the Capitol building in Sacramento and in San Francisco near the Civic Center. Members and staff stood among hundreds with signs that read: “Don’t balance the budget on the backs of our

children,” and “Don’t let California go up in smoke.” These were colorful events but not to be taken lightly. Local 3 continues to lobby on members’ behalf bringing to light the critical functions Unit 12 employees perform for the betterment, protection and maintenance of the state that currently seems unaware of their importance (to read more about what Unit 12 members do, see the department’s article this month).

The balanced budget doesn’t mean our fight is over. Contact your local district office to find out what you can do to wage the war against budget cuts.



From left: Local 501 members Mike Placencia and Ken Capehart and Unit 12 member George Swift rally against budget cuts in Sacramento.



Somehow Gov. Schwarzenegger showed up in San Francisco to protest his own budget!



From left: Local 3 Lobbyist Tim Cremens and Vice President Carl Goff rally in Sacramento against budget cuts for state workers.



Unit 12 Central Office Secretary Debbie Dethlefs and Caltrans member Frank Vodopich join other state employees at the steps of the Capitol building to protest budget cuts and furloughs.



Political Perspective
By Tom Aja, retired political director

Goodbye doesn't mean the end

As members of our union, and, in my case, a member and employee, we work and live within an industry that is always subject to change. This change can involve new technology, the completion of a project, inclement weather or layoff due to declining revenue. Every day can be the last day of employment, and it is wise to have a personal budget that includes the possibility of being laid-off. For most of our members, an extended layoff can have a devastating effect on their families. I was laid-off for most of 1981 when our economy was in a similar situation. I know from personal experience how it feels to struggle and juggle payments to meet financial obligations.

These lessons in life were called to action this June, when I had a meeting with my officer-in-charge, Vice President Carl Goff. Carl explained the situation he was facing. Due to the vast number of our members who are unemployed and the related decline in revenue to our union, we needed to reduce staff within Local 3. The staff reductions at the end of June were in addition to layoffs that were made at the end of March. The officers of our union have always made staff reductions in the administrative offices before any layoffs in the district offices to ensure optimum service for our members. When Carl explained he needed to reduce staff under his supervision, which was a very painful task, I knew immediately what I must do.


I have been truly fortunate throughout my career as an Operating Engineer. I received my first dispatch as a first-step apprentice when I was barely 20 years old, and except for a few lean years, I enjoyed fairly steady employment. After 22 years working in the field, I was given the opportunity to work for our union as a business representative, and for the past 15 years, I have had the honor and privilege to represent our members in a variety of assignments. With all my good fortune, I could not continue to work while someone else would be laid-off with no place to secure employment. I can afford to retire – no one can afford to be laid-off during this economic crisis. I appreciate Carl's wise council when he said I should discuss my decision with my wife. Sometimes I forget to include her in my professional decisions, and this was one of major significance. Being

the perfect partner that she is, my bride fully supported my decision.

In a subsequent meeting with Carl and Business Manager Russ Burns, I presented them with a list of projects in which I am involved and asked if I could continue to work on them in a voluntary capacity. I have written about most of these projects in previous issues of *Engineers News*, and I greatly appreciate the officers' approval to continue working on them. I will also continue to represent our union in the political arena, as a volunteer, and I look forward to the challenges that we will face in the future.

Becoming a member of Operating Engineers Local 3 was the best thing I could have done to provide my family a quality standard of living. I know in my heart just how fortunate I am, and I cannot at this time just walk away. Being a member of our union, for me, is more than a career, and being an employee of our union was more than a job. My union is my life, and it always will be. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to represent our union as a political volunteer, and I look forward to my life as an active retiree.

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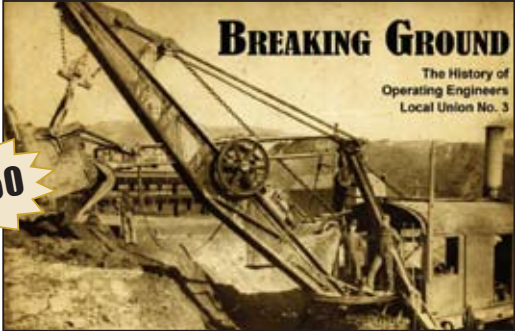


Above: Local 3 officers and staff, 1941.

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BOOK IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE NEAR FALL 2009



Give your fellow union members the right to organize in the workplace – support EFCA.

On March 10, Congress presented its latest version of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), legislation that amends the way the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) certifies unions as an employee’s bargaining representative.

EFCA would allow employees to select union representation through an election process if at least 30 percent of employees petition for an election; otherwise, the NLRB would certify the union as the employees’ bargaining representative if a majority of the employees sign authorization cards. The EFCA also establishes harsh penalties for employers who violate the National Labor Relations Act (the law which governs union organizing) and puts new measures in place for mediation and arbitration.

The current National Labor Relations Act is broken. For too many years, some employers have abused it by terminating, laying-off or disciplining employees who start organizing drives, bringing in non-union attorneys and professionals to convince employees to vote against the union and threatening to “close the doors” if the union is voted in with little or no penalty for violating an employee’s right

to organize other than to post a written notice not to repeat the same violations. EFCA would create fines up to \$20,000 for violations of employees’ rights during an organizing drive. Currently, there are no fines for such violations.

During the next several months, you will hear radio announcements and read newspaper ads telling you that EFCA takes away an employee’s basic fundamental right to vote by secret ballot for union representation. Do not believe all the hype “Big Business” is putting out. No one’s right to vote by secret ballot is being taken away – this right is given to the employees. They will now be given the choice of immediate representation through verification of signed authorization cards or a secret ballot. This choice has always been the employer’s. Who does this union belong to – the employers or the employees? Who should have the right to decide what direction should be taken to gain recognition for representation?

For more facts on EFCA, please call the Hall at (801) 596-2677 or go to employeefreechoiceact.org.

ROHNERT PARK | Ghilotti goes green with affordable housing unit

Ghilotti Construction recently broke ground on a “green,” affordable rental-housing project in Healdsburg. Crews are grading and installing utilities for the project. City officials are excited about the opportunity to build a sustainable housing development near the downtown area. The city held a competition between nonprofit developers for the opportunity to develop the 3.18 acres. Eden Housing won and worked with BAR Architects based in San Francisco to design the project. There will be 64 family-rental apartments with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Apartments will be arranged in 11 residential buildings with a community building on Grant Street that will have space for recreational activities, a computer lab and a kitchen.

Green features of the development include solar hot water for the laundry rooms; photo-voltaic electricity for the common areas; landscaping designed to minimize irrigation; recycled construction waste; Energy Star appliances; and low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) paint.

The location makes it possible for residents to walk to the local amenities, making it an even greener development.

Highway work continues

Work to widen Hwy. 101 from Steele Lane to Windsor River Road continues full-speed ahead with contractor **O. C. Jones** running day and night shifts on the \$77.8 million project. Several subcontractors are also working in multiple shifts. **Vanguard Construction** from Livermore is pouring concrete supplied from **Elite Ready Mix**, and **Syar Industries** is supplying the asphalt. The construction of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes began in January from Steele Lane to the Windsor exit. The widening is scheduled to be done in the late summer or early fall of 2010.

Ghilotti Bros. started the Wilfred Project to widen Hwy. 101 and add HOV lanes to the existing four lanes of freeway from Rohnert Park Expressway to Santa Rosa Avenue. The project includes the replacement and realignment of the Wilfred/Commerce Boulevard undercrossing and is scheduled for completion in December 2011.

Out and about with Ghilotti Construction on the Healdsburg housing project

Apprenticeship Spotlight

This month’s Apprenticeship Spotlight is on **Martin Villalobos Jr.** He was dispatched to **Monterey Mechanical** as a first-step grade-checking apprentice at the Novato Sewer Treatment project. It wasn’t long before Villalobos fell in love with operating equipment and requested a branch change to Construction Equipment Operator (CEO). He is currently a third-step CEO apprentice and is still employed on the same project.

Project Superintendent **Ronald Van Airsdale** said: “Martin is a good and consistent employee. He has a good work ethic, and he is reliable. Martin takes directions very well. He is learning a lot and is getting plenty of seat time on a variety of equipment.”



Third-step Apprentice
Martin Villalobos Jr.



Strip-Loader Operator
Aaron Bowman.



Backhoe Operator Francis
Castro.



Backhoe Operator Rick Coen.

BURLINGAME | Many projects on time

Ghilloti Brothers is working nights on Hwy. 101 south of Hwy. 92 in San Mateo. The company is grinding and repaving portions of the freeway in a two-mile stretch. **DeSilva Gates** is also going strong with a daytime paving crew.

In southern San Mateo County, **Al Rubert** is working steady for **Vanguard Construction** at several schools. Operators **Robert Vasquez** and **Harold Lemings** of **Bayview Engineering** lead the way doing dirt work for the new Walgreens in Burlingame on El Camino.

Other jobs in the area include the Crystal Springs Bypass tunnel scheduled to finish in late 2011 and the Mills Peninsula Hospital on time to finish at the end of this year.

ICC Construction is working at the SFO International Airport Terminal 2

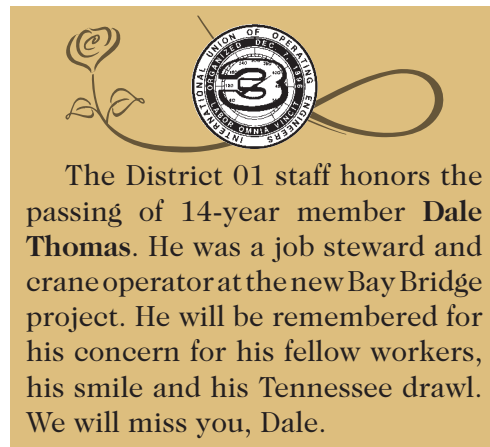
project, which is currently home to 13 Operating Engineers.

The new Redwood City Costco and Kohl's are on schedule and should open this year.

Please don't forget to renew your registration on the out-of-work list within 84 days, or you will lose your place. Also: If you qualify for a 10-year letter, get out there and search for work. Marketing your skills can be a valuable tool when the Hall is slow.

Another good rule of thumb is to be active in your union. Call the Hall at (650) 652-7969 to volunteer in the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program and attend your district meetings. Ours is Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at 1521 Rollins Road. These meetings are full of great people and loads of information. It is also a fantastic way to

network. If you need jobsite information about work in San Mateo County, please contact Business Rep. **Craig Thompson** at (650) 636-5312.



NEVADA | Big Vista Boulevard widening advertised

Work in Nevada has been sporadic. Many projects advertised or awarded have started slow. Airport projects are delayed because of money appropriation, such as the Carson Airport and Reno Airport projects that did not start until mid-July but were awarded in early May. This has been typical all summer. Smaller projects have been completed, and the work has been given to just a handful of people, rather than spread out. These issues coupled with the lack of a private market have not given many people a chance to work.

We did get a shot in the arm recently. As was mentioned last month, Senate Bill (SB) 201 was passed, which will create additional funding for roads in the Reno-Sparks area. We are finally seeing some of that work come to the surface. The Regional Transportation Commission is advertising projects throughout Truckee Meadows. The largest of these projects is the \$15 million Vista Boulevard widening. The company has also locally advertised other projects totaling about \$6 million. Also expected to be advertised this year is the Meadowood Mall interchange and the widening of I-580 from Moana Lane to I-80. The city of Sparks got into the mix with the Spanish Springs sewer line. **Reno-Tahoe Construction (RTC)** was the low bidder on the job at \$6.6 million. **MKD Construction** was recently awarded the Rose Creek Bridge repair near Winnemucca along with a slope-scaling project. The company is also finishing a few jobs in Eureka, Nev.

Granite Construction continues to work in Lovelock, on Freeport Boulevard in Reno and at the Carson and Reno airports (due to the late starts). **Q&D Construction** is working in Winnemucca, Mill City and Battle Mountain and on several projects in Elko County schools related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The company is also working on McCarran Boulevard, Pembroke Road and the Reno Consolidated street program.

Sierra Nevada Construction has jobs throughout the state and is finishing a few jobs in the Reno area. **Road and Highway Builders** is finishing at Golconda, and newly signed **El Camino Construction** is working on Kingsbury Grade. **Frehner Construction** has projects in Carlin, Battle Mountain and Contact. **Ames Construction** is working at Cortez on mine development and is close to completing the road relocation through the mine. **N.A. Degerstrom** continues to work at the Hycroft Mine near Winnemucca and should finish the current portion at the Rossi Mine. The company will return to the next phase after a brief hiatus.

Local 3 would like to welcome several new signatory contractors to Northern Nevada: **El Camino Construction; Williams Brother, Inc.; Blade Runners Construction, Inc.; 2B's Enterprises; and Titan Electrical Contracting.**

The price of gold hovers around \$930 per ounce. Gold is the main driver of the economy in Northeast Nevada. For Local 3 members at the Newmont Mine in Carlin, negotiations will take place for a new contract at the end of this year. All union members at Newmont need to reach out to non-members and talk to them about the importance of membership for fair and successful negotiations. There has never been a more truthful statement as: "United we stand; divided we beg." Fliers have been distributed with dates for pre-negotiation meetings this month. There will also be notices posted to nominate and vote for negotiation committee members in October. If there are any questions, call the Elko Hall at (775) 753-8761 or stop by at 1096 Lamoille Highway.

In June, two Local 3 members lost their lives in separate incidents. Both worked for **Newmont Mining**. **Steve Halverson**, a 20-year member who worked in the mine operations department as a blast-hold driller, had an on-the-job accident that took his life. Steve will be greatly missed by his co-workers and family. **Pat Callahan** had been a member for about 3-½ years. Pat was killed in a motorcycle accident. He will also be missed very much by his family and co-workers. Operating Engineers offer our heartfelt condolences to both families.

We would like to remind our members about Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) training. It will be mandatory as of Jan. 1, 2010. The Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) is offering classes the second Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month. The classes fill up fast, so call early at (775) 575-2729 to sign up. The JAC also offers many classes to assist in the quality of our membership.

Elko members: The Newmont membership meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and the construction meeting is the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. We look forward to seeing all of you at the next district meeting, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. Also: The Semi-Annual Meeting is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 20 at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) in California.



Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Curtis Kibbe works for Sierra Nevada Construction.

FAIRFIELD | Perfectly boring work

District 04 would like to spotlight our “boring” members this month! **Pacific Boring, Inc.** is performing work for **J&M Inc.** on a new water line under Cordelia Road in Fairfield. Twenty-seven-year member **Steve Windsor** operates the Guided Boring Machine (GBM). The crew consists of Foreman **John Vandish**, bore machine and Loader Operator **Rod Liles** and Crane Operator **Steve Westbay**. The crew has been working in a pit 22 feet deep, placing 220 feet of 54-inch steel pipe. Inside the pipe, they are placing

a thin-walled, steel water pipe encased inside and outside with concrete. The last bore they performed was 220 feet long with 0/100 off, which is considered a “perfect bore!”

Due to the closeness of the creek and the high volume of water on this jobsite, the GBM is used for the safety of the operators. It is also great in hazardous ground areas, such as gas-line projects, so an operator is not exposed to fumes. A standard Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) has an operator inside the machine

keeping line and grade while he operates. The GBM keeps our members safe in various types of working conditions.

District 04 congratulates Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice **Roque Flores** for advancing to journey-level status in June. Flores spent his entire apprenticeship working for **Linscott Engineering**.

Finally, we would like to send our condolences to the family and friends of District 04 member **Dale Thomas**, who passed away July 1.



Loader Operator Rod Liles works on the new water line under Cordelia Road.

Members Steve Windsor and John Vandish work for Pacific Boring, Inc. in a pit 22 feet deep.



Crane Operator Steve Westbay works for Pacific Boring, Inc. on Cordelia Road.

STOCKTON | Knife River cuts through the work

As fall approaches, work continues in District 30 with many projects on the horizon.

Top Grade finished a grading and paving job for a new Fresh Groceries Store in University Park off California Street in Stockton. **Knife River** is performing underground work off Industrial Drive in south Stockton and is overlaying 49 streets in and around the city. **Teichert Construction** is working on the first phase of the Airpark 599 project in south Stockton on Pock and Arch Road. Work continues at the alternative intake project at Victoria Island.

Upcoming work

Knife River has the Wilson Way overlay from Harding Way north to the Diverting Canal, a \$1.9 million street widening, overlay, concrete and landscape improvement project and the \$2.2 million Arch-Airport Road, Airport Road and Sperry Road overlay.

A. M. Stephens has the Lower Sacramento Road improvement project in Lodi.

At the Port of Stockton, the \$2.6 million cargo-inspection facility project will start construction this year and includes creating 10.5 acres of secure

facility where cargo is delivered via ship, rail and truck and can be stored. Suspect cargo will be inspected away from critical areas of the port. The project includes paving the cargo storage/inspection area, constructing a security fence and installing a rail spur. There is a 90-day window to complete this job from commencement date. Two more street overlay projects will start soon.

Don't forget to keep your out-of-work registration current.



From left: Teichert Construction Gradesetter David Asuncion, ENGEO Inc. Inspector Ryan Selvage and Teichert Construction Foreman Joe Villalobos work at the Airpark 599 project on Pock and Arch Road.

Fifth-step Apprentice Francisco Torres works at the Airpark 599 project in south Stockton.



MORGAN HILL | Hanging out with Drill Tech

As we approach the end of summer, let's give a big congratulations and a round of applause to the re-elected officers and Executive Board members, as we know they will continue doing a remarkable job for OE3 in these tough economic times.

District 90 has some work in the area, including **Granite Rock/Pavex** with a \$10 million occupational safety and health enhancement to Hwy. 25 in San Benito County; **Drill Tech** with an erosion-control retaining wall along East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz County; **Sukut Construction** with the John Smith Landfill in Hollister (adding more useable space); **Joseph J. Albanese** with the 3rd street widening in Morgan Hill; **Independent Construction** and **Sanco Pipelines** with the 70-home KB housing project in the south San Jose foothills; and **HSR** on the \$2 million to \$4 million Jaques Gulch project in Old Almaden.

Morgan Hill will also be getting the first Cricket field in the United States with **Lewis Tractor Service** doing the grading.

The district is happy to welcome **Zamborelli Drilling** to our signatory family.

Our condolences and prayers go out to the family of fellow member **Manuel Simas** who recently passed away. Simas was 76 years young and a 52-plus-year

member. He was an all-around good hand and great guy and will be missed by all the OE3 brothers and sisters who worked with him.

Please add the following important dates to your calendar, and try to attend these meetings, since your attendance keeps our union strong and you informed:

Sept. 20: 1 p.m. Semi-Annual Meeting (Rancho Murieta Training Center, Sloughhouse, Calif.)

Sept. 24: 10 a.m. Retiree meeting (VFW Hall, Watsonville); 2 p.m. Retiree meeting (Operating Engineers' Building, 325 Digital Drive, Morgan Hill); 7 p.m. district meeting (Operating Engineers' Building, 325 Digital Drive, Morgan Hill)



With views like these, it's easy to see why someone would want to be an Operating Engineer! Pictured here, Drill Tech works on an erosion-control retaining wall along East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz County.

OAKLAND | Historic Cowell Tower comes down

A piece of history came down in Contra Costa County this summer. Cowell Tower, a landmark that could be seen for miles, stood in Concord since the 1940s. The tower is the last piece of the old town of Cowell. It stood in a cement factory and kept the cement dust from covering the town's crops. **Evans Brothers Inc.** (EBI) of Livermore completed the demo in great time with the help of **Bigge Crane and Rigging** (it took only two weeks). A 2-foot ring of the tower and a plaque with its history and the history of the town will be available for viewing when the project is completed.

In Oakland, the City Council and the Port of Oakland overwhelmingly voted, approved and passed a \$450 million Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) project that will connect the Coliseum's BART stop to the Oakland International Airport. Federal Stimulus money totaling \$70 million for the project will bring lots of work and jobs to the area. This project has been in the works since BART's inception in 1946. A BART spokesperson talked about doing this project with a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in place, which means *good union jobs*. The project should start by 2010.

Speaking of PLAs, Brentwood's mayor and City Council voted 3-2 in favor of a PLA project to build a new civic center in Brentwood. After three difficult meetings with non-union ABC Builders,



EBI uses massive jaws to break apart the Cowell Tower.

the PLA was passed, and local hands and the Helmets to Hardhats program, which puts military veterans to work in the construction industry, will be a part of this shovel-ready project, which should start soon. Check back here for further updates.

Congratulations to former Valley Power striker **Russ Mendenhall** and his wife, **Sari**, on the birth of their third son, **Dakota**. District 20 thanks you, Russ, for your dedicated hours on the Valley Power strike line. Russ is now working at **Condon-Johnson Associates** as a second-step apprentice and is doing a great job for them. Thanks again, from all of us.

EBI and Bigge Crane and Rigging work together to demo the huge Cowell Tower in Concord.



FRESNO | Bridge demo continues near Snelling

At the time of this writing, we hope the Hwy. 198 project between Hanford and Hwy. 99 went to bid. This project has an engineer's estimate of \$65 million to \$70 million and would put several operators to work during the upcoming winter months.

Work on the Merced River bridge demo continues. The Fresno District encourages everyone to attend our Sept. 10 district meeting at 7 p.m. at the Clovis Memorial Building, 443 Hughes Ave., and the Sept. 20 Semi-Annual Meeting at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTc).

We have had a great response to our weekly project-list update. Several members are now receiving this update via e-mail. Contact the Hall at (559) 229-4083 if you would also like to receive this information.

We will again be providing a beginning gradesetting class tentatively scheduled for this month. If interested, please call the Hall at the number mentioned above.

Have a fun and safe Labor Day!



Excavator Operator
Trent Donahue.



Oiler Steve Kelly.



Crane Operator Chris Honomichl with General Crane lifts 30-ton concrete girders from the old bridge spanning the Merced River near Snelling.

REDDING | Picnic has standout attendance

The District 70 staff would like to thank all who attended or served at the July 11 Redding District picnic. We were blessed with beautiful weather, 382 attendees, five officers and two trustees. How often can one say the weather is beautiful in Redding during the month of July?

On a special note: Retirees **Thomas Gilbert** and **Ralph Martinez** were honored with their 50-year membership watches.

We'd also like to thank our committee members **Chris Dickson, Dave Kirk, Greg Plympton, Jason Chipley, Mettes Kouffeld, Trent McGrew and Ken Green** who make District 70 a success year after year.

We still have a good amount of work in our district with additional projects being bid on and awarded weekly. **Tullis Inc.** was awarded several new projects: The Cottonwood Truck Scales, Shasta

County roadways and the city of Redding Browning Street reconstruction. **Cox & Cox** has the Buckeye water main project in Redding, and **Steve Manning Construction** has road work in Trinity County.

To get updated on the area's work and union news, call the Hall at (530) 222-6093 or stop by at 20308 Engineers Lane.



Fifty-year member Thomas Gilbert and Business Manager Russ Burns at the Redding District picnic.



From left: Barbecue Committee members Ralph Martinez, Ken Green, Jerry White and Stan Green.



Roadhouse performs during the July 11 Redding District picnic, which had record attendance.



Redding District Rep. Bran Eubanks serves William and Elaine Baugh.



Retiree John Hinote's family visits the night before the July 11 picnic during the meat-wrapping pre-barbecue.

HAWAII | Out and about with Kauai's Jennings Pacific

It's good times in District 17 between picnics and the mass grading job on the island of Kauai with **Jennings Pacific**.

The **Jennings Pacific** crew includes Foreman **Vince Kruse**, Excavator Operator **Abe Souza**, Water Truck Operator **Dallas Pugh** and **Kawila Palama**. These guys do a great job.

Please note: The Big Island picnic is scheduled for Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wailoa State Park.

This Jennings Pacific crew includes, from left: Foreman Vince Kruse, Excavator Operator Abe Souza, Business Rep. Ana Tuiasasopo, Water Truck Operator Dallas Pugh and Kawila Palama (kneeling).



SACRAMENTO | Projects buzz in area

Teichert was awarded the Wentworth Springs Road upgrade project valued at \$4.5 million. This project has the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) designation, which means it has been funded by the long-awaited stimulus money.

Teichert, **Granite** and **R&L Brossamer** are busy on I-80.

Independent Construction was awarded phase 1B of the ongoing Sacramento River East levee project valued at \$20.7 million. By the time this goes to press, the project should have started.

Syblon Reid was awarded the \$7.9 million expansion of the El Dorado Hills water-treatment plant.

Flatiron Construction was awarded the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes project on I-80 in the Roseville/Rocklin area valued at \$21.8 million. Subcontractors include **Sterling P. Holloway**, **Mid-State Barrier, Inc.**, **CTM Construction, Inc.**,

Vanguard Construction and **Angelo Utilities**. **Flatiron** is also widening Hazel Avenue during the first phase of construction valued at \$21.1 million.

George Reed, **Argonaut**, **Rockford Corp** and **R&R Construction** are busy widening Bradshaw Road.

Martin Brothers and **Kiewit** are busy on the second phase of the spillway project at Folsom Dam. **Martin Brothers** is on the second year of a three-year project on Hwy. 89.

Diablo is also working on a multi-year project in Carnelian Bay valued at \$29 million.

Mountain Cascade was awarded a \$1.6 million trunk-sewer connection at the Metro Air Park.

Congratulations to **William Muller** on his 50-plus years of service. His photo is available online at oe3.org.

YUBA CITY | Area sees more work than ever before

Work is in full swing in District 60. As of this writing, we have more projects started, starting or being bid out than we've ever seen before – almost \$2 billion worth. **Independent Construction**, **Teichert**, **Envirocon**, **Inquip** and **Magnus Pacific** are all working on the Feather River and Sacramento River levees. **Teichert** also has some paving work in our district.

Independent Construction finished work at Butte County Landfill ahead of schedule, impressing the county employees and Butte County Supervisor **Steve Lambert**, who went on a guided tour of the project.

DeSilva Gates is still working hard on the East Nicolaus Bypass and the Tudor Bypass and was awarded a nearly \$7 million project in Oroville. **Granite** has been busy with nighttime grind-outs and paving and will soon start the \$7.2 million Hwy. 99 widening project in the Biggs area.

Rockford Corporation started two projects: One is 4.5 miles of 24-inch gas pipeline and a compressor station at the Wild Goose gas facility near Grey Lodge in Gridley. The other is about six miles of 6-inch pipeline north of Biggs along Hwy. 99.

Knife River (Baldwin) is busy completing the Manzanita project in Chico and doing road construction on East 8th Avenue. **Cox & Cox** is subbing for the company doing the underground. **Knife River** is also working on other projects in Chico and is paving near Chester in Plumas County with a \$1.7 million overlay.

RGW will start Live Oak's \$17 million sewage-treatment plant soon. This project was a re-bid that was previously awarded to a non-union company.

Sierra Nevada Construction is working in Gridley widening Hwy. 99 to five lanes, installing a new signal light and completing several paving jobs in the district.

North Bay Construction is starting its nearly \$6.2 million project in Colusa County rebuilding the Hwy. 20 over-crossing of I-5. **George Reed Construction**, **McGuire and Hester**, **Steve Manning**, **Ron Hale**, **Syblon Reid**, **Mid-State Barrier** and **Mountain Cascade** also have work.

The Colusa Power Plant is still the largest project in District 60. **Gemma** is working hard on the nearly \$700 million project. **Conco Concrete Pumping**, **Lamon Construction** and **Signet Engineering** are subcontracting for **Gemma**. This project will keep members working for a long time.

The rock, sand and gravel plants are getting more work, but it's still slow. Shops, such as **Holt** and **Peterson**, are very slow. Hopefully the increased amount of construction will help pick up hours for them.

District 60 welcomes new signatory employer **Refinery Mobil Fleet Service Inc.**, which specializes in preventative maintenance and repair work on all kinds of equipment.

Our Unit 12 members are still getting it done, despite a third and possibly fourth furlough day. Caltrans, Department of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Fish and Game (DFG), state parks, Cal-Fire and our state-fair maintenance members are, as always, keeping us safe and keeping this state's assets in shape.

The state's budget issues have affected our members and our union. We cannot afford to let our government hold us and this state hostage. We must let them know their partisanship and pandering affects us. The hard-working families in this state demand that the legislators and governor come together and get this state working again. Visit legislature.ca.gov/port-zipsearch.html to find your legislator's number.

As always, for more information, call the Hall at (530) 743-7321 or visit us at 468 Century Park Drive in Yuba City.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 8th **District 04: Suisun City**
Veterans' Memorial Building
427 Main St.
- 9th **District 11: Reno**
Operating Engineers' Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.
- 9th **District 80: Sacramento**
Operating Engineers' Building
3920 Lennane Drive
- 10th **District 12: Salt Lake City**
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.
- 10th **District 30: Stockton**
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherry Land Drive
- 10th **District 50: Clovis**
Veterans' Memorial Building
453 Hughes Ave.
- 14th **District 17: Honolulu**
Kalakaua Intermediate
School Cafeteria
821 Kalihi St.
- 15th **District 17: Maui**
Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kaahumanu Ave.
Kahului
- 15th **District 40: Eureka**
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway
- 16th **District 17: Hilo**
Hilo ILWU Hall
100 W. Lanikaula St.
- 16th **District 70: Redding**
Operating Engineers' Building
20308 Engineers Lane
- 17th **District 60: Oroville**
Southside Oroville
Community Center
2959 Lower Wyandotte

- 22nd **District 01: Burlingame**
Transport Workers' Union
1521 Rollins Road
- 22nd **District 10: Ukiah**
Hampton Inn
1160 Airport Park Blvd.
- 24th **District 20: San Leandro**
Sheet Metal Workers' Building
1720 Marina Blvd.
- 24th **District 90: Morgan Hill**
Operating Engineers' Building
325 Digital Drive

NOVEMBER 2009

- 3rd **District 40: Eureka**
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway
- 4th **District 70: Redding**
Operating Engineers' Building
20308 Engineers Lane
- 5th **District 60: Marysville**
Marysville Joint Unified School
District Boardroom
1919 B. St.
- 18th **District 10: Lakeport**
Lake County Fairgrounds
401 Martin St.
- 18th **District 80: Sacramento**
Operating Engineers' Building
3920 Lennane Drive
- 19th **District 30: Stockton**
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherry Land Drive
- 19th **District 50: Clovis**
Veterans' Memorial Building
453 Hughes Ave.
- 30th **District 17: Honolulu**
Kalakaua Intermediate
School Cafeteria
821 Kalihi St.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that the next Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTc), 14738 Cantova Way, Sloughhouse, Calif.



ELECTION OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE NOTICE:

Per Article XXX, Section 2 (a) of the Bylaws, the following eligibility requirements have been established for the Bylaws Committee member nomination and election to be held at the regular fourth-quarter district meetings in 2009 by secret ballot vote of those members present:

- 1) Must be a member in good standing
- 2) Must have been a member of the parent local of Operating Engineers Local Union 3 for five years next preceding his or her nomination and election
- 3) Must be a resident in the district, as indicated by the address shown on union records as of Oct. 23, 2009
- 4) Must be a registered voter in the district
- 5) Cannot be a registered apprentice
- 6) Cannot be an employer or an employee on the payroll of the local union or a related entity

The schedule of these meetings appears under District Meetings at left.

Honorary Membership

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

Ruben Bunting	1709975	District 60: Yuba City
David Clark	1558140	District 99: Out Of Area
Donald Deeds	1142705	District 60: Yuba City
John Giordano	1075613	District 04: Fairfield
Arthur Hoewaa	1199211	District 17: Hawaii
Raymond Pauline	1609849	District 17: Hawaii

Congratulations to the 2009 Local 3 Merit Scholarship Winners

Robert Bagley Sparks, NV Parent: Robert G. Bagley Reg#: 2042121	Taylor Brickey Winters, CA Parent: Matthew Brickey Reg#: 2110696	Jamie Brown Reno, NV Parent: Ronald Brown Reg#: 2316196	Lindsay Cole Hidden Valley Ranch, CA Parent: Barbara Cole Reg#: 2663163
Stevie Esparza Sacramento, CA Parent: David Esparza Reg#: 2309588	Neal Gaspar Mililani, HI Parent: Marcelino Gaspar Reg#: 2112848	Maci Hansen Herald, CA Parent: Steven Hansen Reg#: 2110731	Kimberly Johnston Rio Linda, CA Parent: William Johnston Reg#: 2620965
Graham McNeil Concord, CA Parents: Ian and Anne McNeil Reg#: 1842971, Reg#: 1963710	Allison Meins Alameda, CA Parent: Rex Meins Reg#: 1988914	Adriana Meza Pleasanton, CA Parent: Rafael Meza Reg#: 2640210	Natalie Morgan Vallejo, CA Parent: James Morgan Reg#: 1842991
Elima Pangorang Mililani, HI Parent: Curtis Pangorang Reg#: 2069857	Justin Rashidi Reno, NV Parent: Heidi Rashidi Reg#: 2506446	Erica Roberson Fairfield, CA Parent: Leon Roberson Jr. Reg#: 2352283	Chris Sampson Clovis, CA Parent: Dave Sampson Reg#: 2517842
Renee Schantin Castro Valley, CA Parent: Timothy Schantin Reg#: 2518008	Kyle Schmidthans Woodland, CA Parent: Brian Schmidthans Reg#: 2017188	Victor Wong Morağa, CA Parent: Bin Wong Reg#: 2632889	Daisy Yip Oakland, CA Parent: Arnold Yip Reg#: 1897571

Note: Winners were randomly drawn at the July 26, 2009 Executive Board Meeting.

SERVICE PINS

In honor and remembrance of years of service in Local 3, service pins are available to members with 25 or more years of membership in Local 3. These pins come in five-year increments from 25 through 70 years of service. Please contact your district office to receive your pins. Some pin photos are available in an online gallery at oe3.org.



Correction

Thirty-year pin recipient Dave Hearn was mis-identified in last month’s pin-recipient spread.

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Acosta, Jimmy Freedom, CA District 90 06-27-09	Eldridge, Kenneth Concord, CA District 20 06-04-09	Radilovich, John El Cerrito, CA District 20 04-01-09	McMurry, Margaret. Wife of McMurry, Garland 03-01-09
Aki, Pualii Kaneohe, HI District 17 05-05-09	Francis, John Carson City, NV District 11 05-20-09	Rust, Robert Rohnert Park, CA District 10 05-05-09	Nicholson, Phyllis. Wife of Nicholson, Todd 06-15-09
Baldwin, Blaine Pleasant Grove, UT District 12 04-30-09	Hurt, George Denison, TX District 99 05-28-09	Slack, Jim La Porte, CA District 60 06-12-09	Renfro, Anna. Wife of Renfro, Robert 06-13-09
Bell, John Portola Valley, CA District 01 05-17-09	Iaela, Herman Ewa Beach, HI District 17 04-28-09	Soares, Edward Newfolden, MN District 99 05-20-09	Royce, Elsie. Wife of Royce, Frank (dec) 06-03-09
Callahan, Patrick Spring Creek, NV District 11 06-09-09	Jones, John Payette, ID District 99 05-19-09	Whitehead, James Murray, UT District 12 05-06-09	Torres, Diane. Wife of Torres, Manuel (dec) 04-15-09
Carey, Edward Pleasant Hill, CA District 20 05-16-09	Jones, Richard Sandy, UT District 12 05-26-09	Williams, Jack Welch, OK District 99 06-06-09	Woods, Vivian. Wife of Woods, Jerrel 05-13-09
Carter, William Pryor, OK District 99 04-10-09	Luzier, Howard Sparks, NV District 11 05-25-09		Wycoff, Dorothy. Wife of Wycoff, Donald 06-23-09
Charlton, James Manteca, CA District 30 06-02-09	Mahaffey, Charles Coarsegold, CA District 50 03-22-09	DECEASED DEPENDENTS	
Clay, Allen Middletown, CA District 10 05-12-09	Miller, Calvin Keaau, HI District 17 05-30-09	Cameron, Margaret. Wife of Cameron, Bruce 06-07-09	
Diaz, Manuel Sacramento, CA District 80 04-18-09	Napoleon, Frank Kapolei, HI District 17 05-09-09	Franks, Patricia. Wife of Franks, Darrell 05-30-09	
	Rader, James Fresno, CA District 50 05-28-09	Ige, Florence. Wife of Ige, Edwin 06-22-09	
		Jenne, Christine. Wife of Jenne, Mark 06-18-09	
		Martinez, Yolanda. Wife of Martinez, Chris 05-23-09	

Barbecuing can be healthy

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Cardboard-flavored rice cakes, bran muffins and diet drinks not your idea of summer eating? Relax. We've got a few ideas that will heat up your healthy habits *and* add an "mmm" to your mmm-menu.

Because many members enjoy barbecuing this time of year (Remember: Labor Day weekend is this month) *Engineers News* has a few ideas that will take some of the fat out of your festivities.

WebMD, a leading provider of online health information that recently partnered with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), suggests making kabobs. These finger-foods let you eat what you want but in small quantities. Cutting meat into small chunks and stacking them between fruits and veggies makes an impressive and filling food, yet doesn't require as much meat.

You can also try healthier versions – stack prawns, peppers and pineapple for a Hawaiian flavor or cubed chicken breast, mushrooms and cherry tomatoes for a more traditional taste. You can even offer an all-veggie option as almost any vegetable and many fruits taste good grilled and skewered, from onions to apple slices. Even squash works, and leftovers can be eaten the next

day for lunch. That's what's in nine-year member Michael Karsten's lunch box, "to keep up the ol' potassium, so I can work better and quicker," he said. In addition to potassium, which "helps your heart beat," squash is also a good source of fiber, Vitamin C, folic acid and magnesium.

If kabobs are out of the question and you want to serve steak, choose leaner cuts, or try salmon or skinned chicken. According to WebMD, half the fat of chicken breasts and thighs is in the skin.

If you can't imagine barbecuing without burgers, again, try a leaner version – veggie burgers, salmon patties or turkey burgers contain less calories than your average hamburger and don't typically call for cheese. Make sure you have all the other fixin's – tomatoes, lettuce, pickles and onions – and you may not even miss the beef.

Another sneaky way to cut back on the meat is to offer several side dishes to fill up on, but instead of heavy macaroni salad, potato salad or a bag of chips, serve baked beans – something a Local 3 picnic never forgets – and corn-on-the-cob cooked right on the Q. Asparagus, potatoes and mushrooms are also great served off the grill, as are zucchini, eggplant, even pears. Green salad with lots of dark, leafy greens is another easy, no-brainer side dish, and fruit, like watermelon or fresh strawberries, makes a delicious dessert for an outdoor feast.

Member Norman Hagey and his wife are served fresh strawberries and salad, popular – and healthy – side dishes at their district picnic.



Swap Shop ads are offered free of charge to members in good standing for the sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate. Please notify the office immediately if your item has been sold. Business-related offerings are not eligible for inclusion in Swap Shop. *Engineers News* reserves the right to edit ads. 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 No. 3
3920 Lennane Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95834
ATTN: Swap Shop*
(916) 993-2047

Or fax ads to: Swap Shop
(916) 419-3487

Or e-mail to:
jjohnston@oe3.org

*All ads must include Member Registration Number or ad will not appear.

FOR SALE: A 2000 Winnebago motorhome. Class C "Minnie," 31 feet with slide-out. Only 19,684 miles. Ford 450 V10 gas engine. Excellent condition, never smoked in, super clean, everything in good working order. Solar roof panels, queen walk-around bed, Onan generator, microwave, VCR/TV, lots of storage inside and underneath, AC and more. Original owner. \$29,000 OBO. (209) 794-2773. Reg# 0845470.

FOR SALE: A 2002 BMW K1200 LT Trike. (Motorcycle with a Hannigan trike factory conversion.) Perfect condition: All the "bells and whistles." \$22,500 OBO. Also: A 2003 Kubota tractor, BX1500, 15HP diesel engine, only 304 hours, 4WD, front loader, 48-inch rear scraper, Woods 45-inch rotary mower (attaches to PTO), three-point hitch, 540 RPM PTO, power steering. \$9,850 OBO. (209) 794-2773. Reg# 0845470.

FOR SALE: A 2008 Fleetwood TT/Pendleton Gear Box 5th Wheel. Includes 5.5 kw generator (ONAN), built-in power washer and air compressor. All in excellent condition and never been lived in. For more information, call (530) 923-4878 to speak with Vic. Reg# 1276105.

FOR SALE: A 1989 18-foot Sunbird boat, Chevy, 4.3 liter, V6 Cobra engine with OMC Cobra inboard/outboard package. \$6,500. Also: A 2001 Dodge Durango SLT, fully loaded, 5.9 V8, third row seat, \$5,999 – below Kelly Bluebook. Excellent condition. Call (209) 795-6569 or (209) 404-5083. Reg# 1040650.

FOR SALE: A 2001 Chevy Malibu. New tires, Cadillac convertor, V6 engine, \$600 tune-up. Runs great. Asking \$3,299 OBO. (209) 210-8016. Ask for Ron. Reg# 1040650.

WANTED: On the vehicle wheel balancer, hunter tune-in. (775) 629-0245. Reg# 1171933.

FOR SALE: Three-bedroom/2-bath brick home in Northeast Texas with two-car garage, inside laundry room, 20 acres of fenced pasture and pecan trees, 10-stall barn, corral, tack room, workshop and outbuildings. Home has a brick entry and paved driveway. \$300,000. (903) 799-7000. Reg# 1230337.

WANTED: Shotguns, rifles, pistols and ammo. Will pay cash. (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123273.

WANTED: Tractors and equipment, running or not. Farm equipment. (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123273.

FOR SALE: CZ-83 .380 ACP. 2EA. 10 RND. MAGS with 150 rnds. Ninety-nine percent small holster wear. Functions very well and accurately. More rnds available. \$475. Legal only. To signed ffl. Call (208) 734-5540 or e-mail lj3945@gmail.com. Reg# 1121987.

FOR SALE: Four adjoining lots at Murphy Hot Springs, Idaho. Just 15 miles north of Jarbidge, Nev. Great hunting, fishing and other recreational. Includes electricity, septic, phone line and good well. All lots are leveled and graveled; two are fenced. A new, insulated well house, lockable shed (6x24) atv storage, plus a 32-foot Boles Aero trailer is included. \$55,000. E-mail lj3845@gmail.com or (208) 734-5540. Reg# 1121987.

FOR SALE: A 1986 CAT 426 backhoe. Four buckets, GP. Hoe clamp. Extra valve front and rear good rubber. Tubes in all tires. 590 hours on it in 17 years. Stored inside. Good condition. \$16,500. (707) 442-5265. Reg# 1620480.

FOR SALE: A 10-foot flat roller smizer. \$950. Also: D4j cat.d2 seat tank alternator 12-v battery cat starter bg unit under carriage good shape. \$3,500. Everon land plane 10-foot blade drag, good shape, good tires. \$1,000. Oliver wheel tr. 1972 1465 decial 72 hp. power steering, power takeoff, 3-pt clean. \$1,250. Tool carrier 20-foot. Good tires 825/20. \$1,200. Call (707) 326-1544. Reg# 0711800.

FOR SALE: Backhoe, CASE 580 Super E, Extendo with 24-inch bucket and set of forks. \$12,500. Call (209) 509-5696. Reg# 1043556.

FOR SALE: LEICA TCA 1103 long range total station. Bought new in 2004, recently

cleaned, calibrated and adjusted by the LEICA dealer, three second accuracy, onboard TDS software, two batteries, charger hardcase, manual. Have all the receipts. Asking \$7,000 OBO. For photos, e-mail hawkeyer1@shcglobal.net or call (925) 383-0797. Reg# 2102580.

FOR SALE: A 1958 TD340 four-cylinder diesel engine. Runs good. Has ripper bar, loader bucket with clam, no oil leaks, under carriage OK. "Needs Clutch Disk." Will trade or \$5,000. Call (530) 824-8105. Ask for Don. Reg# 1087675.

FOR SALE: A 1995 28-foot Salam Travel Trailer in excellent condition. Everything works. Kept very clean after each use. Self-contained, awning, microwave, TV, etc. Asking \$4,000. Call (530) 368-9280 or (530) 389-2910. Reg# 2248127.

FOR SALE: A 1987 Ski Centurion Ski Boat in excellent condition. Had the interior refinished. Runs great. Asking \$4,500. If interested, call (530) 368-9280 or (530) 389-2910. Reg# 2248127.

FOR SALE: A 1952 Ridge Harley Wishbone Frame – \$400. A 1957 Straight Legg Frame – \$400. Two wide glide front ends – \$200 each. A set of 5-gallon fuel bobs – \$100. Best offer takes all. Call in the evening. (707) 725-5334. Reg# 0939694.

FOR SALE: RV, beautiful 2006 Winnebago Cambria, 26-ft. long, 6,000 miles, superb V-10 Ford engine, leather seats, Class C, slide-outs, back-up camera, all available options, TV/DVD entertainment center, original price \$80,000, asking \$41,000. Carson City, Nev. Call (775) 883-9628. Reg# 1558149.

FOR SALE: R Ranch Partnership, 5,119 acres Rolling Ranch land. 250 Camp sites with hook ups, two swimming pools, three lodges, 54-room bunkhouse. Google it: R Ranch, Hornbrook, Calif. Call (510) 724-6383. Reg# 1178191.

FOR SALE: A 1993 Cummins Turbo Diesel engine, 150,000 miles. Was in Dodge pickup. Regular oil changes, very strong. Dependable engine. \$1,500 firm. Come hear it run. Call (707) 291-7271. Reg# 1782007.

FOR SALE: A 1997 Dodge Ram with towing package. Has allied wheels, 360 engine, heavy-duty transmission and rear end, overdrive on dash. All electric. Has 52,000 miles. \$8,500 OBO. Call (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: A 1990 Dolphin motorhome. 27-½ feet. Class A. All oak interior.

Built-in microwave with oven, VCR/TV, coffee maker. Basement-style storage. New Michelin tires. Has 49,000 miles. Has hydraulic levelers, air shocks, 454 Chevy engine. All electric. Air conditioning, covered awnings. Licensed, Smog-ed and ready-to-go. \$12,000 OBO. Call (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: ATV Artic CAT 400, 4-by-4 model 2007 with trailer, 615 miles only. Good shape. \$6,350 OBO. Also: A 1986 Coleman tent trailer, sleeps eight people, 24 feet when up. \$2,650 OBO. Two Honda Trail 90 bikes. \$500 each OBO. Two boats – one aluminum, one fiberglass. Both in good shape. Call (707) 428-4298 or (707) 580-1657. Reg# 2807798.

FOR SALE: Idaho Panhandle summer paradise. City of Harrison on Lake Coeur d'alene. 12,000-square-foot lot, three blocks from boat launch, city-maintained swimming area and 72-mile bicycle and hiking path. Duck, geese, deer and elk hunting. Pike, bass and blueback fishing. \$100,000. Call (408) 903-6493. Reg# 2302094.

FOR SALE: Henry Golden Boy .22 S/LR. Octagon barrel (20-inch length), walnut stock – as new, with box. \$375. Also: Ruger "Single Six" revolver. "Convertible" with .22 mag. cylinder and .22 LR. 5½-inch BBL in original box with paperwork from 1971. Scarcely fired. \$595 OBO. Call (925) 640-0363. Reg# 2260332.

FOR SALE: A 1971 Chevy C-60 class dump truck. 16-foot dump bed works great and has a tall deck. 427 big block engine, which is used for stroker motors, works great too. \$3,000. Call (209) 620-4826. Reg# 2613843.

FOR SALE: Ham radio – complete station. Good condition. (925) 686-0591. Reg# 0946921.

FOR SALE: Two Rochester Quadrajett carburetors, four 1-½ I.D. holes. One 350 Chevrolet small block intake manifold, four 1-½ I.D. holes. \$175. (408) 266-1058. Reg# 0835689.

FOR SALE: A 1995 Honda XR80. Runs good. Has FMF pipe; KNN air filter. Great beginner's bike. \$700 OBO. (530) 647-8844. Reg# 2450101.

FOR SALE: Country home in a park-like, one-acre setting, 3bd/2-½ bath, east of Placerville in the Apple Hill area; horse paddock/shelter, mini-barn, pool, hot tub, garden, fruit trees. \$592,000. Check it out at AppleHillHaven.com. (530) 647-1996. Reg# 1494208.

FOR SALE: A 1999 753 bobcat, only 225 hours with high flow hyd. system for backhoe attachment, two buckets for hoe and a four-way loading bucket. Comes with a brand new 12000 gvw 16-foot trailer. \$27,500 OBO. Call (925) 787-8158. For pictures, e-mail davidlocal3@yahoo.com. Reg# 1620514.

FOR SALE: 20-acre property with view – can be split. Half mile off Hwy. 491. Co maintained road. Close to four national parks. Lots of trees. 2,130-square-foot triple wide, 3 bed/2 bath, garden. Whirlpool tub, GE stainless steel appliances, Maytag Neptune washer and dryer, large deck, pellet stove, 28-by-32 garage. Tillers, John Deere backhoe. Would like to sell furnished. Call (435) 587-9183. Reg# 2241844.

FOR SALE: Mobile home in established park in Santa Nella, Calif. Bainbridge model, about 14-by-70 on corner lot; 2 bed/2 full bath. Air conditioning; Multi units plus five ceiling fans. Appliances include gas range, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry area. Storage shed with electricity. Front deck with wheelchair ramp. Siding and skirting all around. Ample parking with carport; RV access. Fenced backyard, trees. \$17,000 OBO. (209) 233-4004. Reg# 1219713.

FOR SALE: A 1996 580L CASE EXTENDA backhoe, full cab; 4-in-1 Loader, 12- 18- 24 buckets. Call evenings: (408) 607-0483 or (408) 842-6215. Reg# 1071005.

FOR SALE: Waterfront doublewide, two bedrooms. Completely furnished: Large screen TV, all appliances, washer and dryer, microwave, two couches, waterbed, reclining chair, six-chair kitchen table and much more. A variety of fruit trees and good grapes. Well-taken-care of. Will take best offer – must be sold. (707) 647-0480. Reg# 1644299.

FOR SALE: Caravan Camper, Deluxe Double Door, tinted windows, White for short-bed Ford F-Series. \$4,000 brand new; will sell for \$2,000. For pictures/more information, call (916) 502-0638. Reg# 2434282.

FOR SALE: Custom-built brick home, two-car garage, 3 bed/2 bath, walk-in closet, open floor plan, high-end amenities. A metal 20-by-40 shop and attached horse stall on 2.30 acres. Property joins state park to the rear and offers a wonderful view of Mt. Nebo from the front porch. Located in Dardonelle, Ark., four blocks from Lake Dardonelle. John Daly Golf Course 1 mile away. \$269,900. Call (479) 229-0026. Reg# 1820564.

Once a biker, always a biker

Nevada retiree takes 2,570-mile motorcycle trip

Story by Dominique Beilke, art director and Mandy Jessup, managing editor

Ron “Chester” Brown will tell you that many events in his life seem coincidental, like the fact that he ever got involved in the construction industry (even though this would eventually give him a life of affordable leisure in his retirement), took up motorcycle riding (much to his dad’s chagrin), joined the Air Force or traveled cross-country only to stumble upon the Freedom Rock in central Iowa.

Brown got his first Harley Davidson at age 17, and this worried

his father who knew: “There was more money in construction than riding motorcycles.” His father made him join Local 463 as an oiler on the East Coast, and Brown quickly learned that if he stayed with the union long enough, he would retire someday with a nice pension.

“And I did,” Brown said with a big smile in his current hometown – Fernley, Nev.

After serving in the Air Force during the Korean War as a mechanic from 1954-1957, at just 21 years old, he moved to California in hopes of working on the Oroville Dam. He transferred into Local 3 in 1959 and moved around quite a bit for work.

He has worked for several companies including H.F. Lauritzen, Bay Cities Crane and Rigging, Bigge, Ghilotti, Peter Kiewit, Granite Construction and Healy-Tibbits, to name a few.

He has worked away from home for weeks at a time on Air

Force bases, secured steeples on historic churches in Watsonville, Calif. and set vessels in the refineries in Richmond, Calif. In addition to being an oiler, Brown operated the compactor, dozer, backhoe and his favorite – cranes.

“I was just a guy who loved to run the cranes. I’d go out to the old dam sites and run the old Bay Cities (cranes). Get the cables all tangled up. You mess it up – you fix it – after you fix them a couple times, you learn to run it right.”

And learn he did. While operating a 30-ton Bigge crane, Brown recalls bending the jib. He was fired, but two days later, he was given another chance. A

business agent asked him to report to the Hall. There, Brown found his dispatch and transfer (from oiler to crane operator) taped to the desk. Back on the jobsite, the superintendent informed him that if he was going to bend jibs, then he was going to have to be an operator. So he became one. He also became a respected one. Brown earned such a good reputation that he always had another job lined up before the last one ended.

Brown retired in 1992 at 55 years old, and since then has enjoyed the freedom to travel on a motorcycle again, this one a three-wheeler. In May, he traveled across the United States with fellow Air Force brother and Vietnam veteran Frank Stafford, to visit the memorials in Washington, D.C. In true biker form, they kept to the back roads when possible, took their time and enjoyed the scenery. They saved money by staying in campgrounds, motels and with family along the way.

When they arrived at The Wall, it was emotional: “Little old ladies would walk up to me, take my hand and say thank you,” Brown remembers. That day, he wore a hat that read “Korea Vet” on the front.

While traveling back through Iowa, a gas station attendant noted the hat too and told them they needed to take a detour to visit “a rock.” Puzzled but interested, they got directions and found the Freedom Rock, a 12-foot boulder weighing 56 tons next to Hwy. 25 in central Iowa. The rock is a hand-painted tribute to veterans with a revolving theme. This year’s: Thank you, veterans, for your service, sacrifice, honor. The unplanned stop turned out to be one of his most memorable.

“It was well worth seeing,” said Brown.

And as long as his health holds up, Brown will keep riding.



Retiree Ron “Chester” Brown with his bike shortly after his return from Washington, D.C.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Korean War Veterans Memorial

Ron and Frank in Washington, D.C.

The Freedom Rock