In the East Bay foothills, Local 3 members working for Oliver de Silva are proving that large developments can be built in environmentally sensitive areas without harmful effects.

(SEE PAGE 5)
It's harder when you only lose by a very slim margin, because you start to second guess yourself and wonder what could have been. That is the only significant legislation we were able to get Deukmejian's support on. And if those measures had been on this November's ballot, we would have lost them, too.

Senator David Roberti stated it best four years ago: "The legacy of the Deukmejian administration is zilch. No concern. No compassion. No progress. No programs."

I was really looking forward to getting a governor into office that we could talk to. One that would work with us to spearhead legislation that would make the workplace safer and make it harder for out-of-state, non-union contractors to come in and take jobs away from our people. I was looking forward to ending eight years of what could only be described as "guerilla warfare" in Sacramento.

But that is not going to happen. Once again, we have a governor who has clearly shown by his record that he will not work with labor on anything, unless he can be convinced it is in his own best interests.

I would like to say, "Let's give Pete Wilson the benefit of the doubt. Let's see what he does when he takes over the reins of office. Maybe he'll be someone we can work with." But I've been in this business too long to fool myself about political realities. It's going to be like it was eight years ago. Deukmejian knew we hadn't supported him and we paid for it dearly. It took four years of patience and hard work to get to the point where we could even talk to him or any of his key people. Even then, it was always clear where he stood and where we stood — and that was on the opposite sides of the fence.

Wilson has political debts to pay. He will reward his supporters — i.e. agribusiness, big oil, etc., because they were the ones that financed his campaign. We didn't contribute to his campaign. We fought against him and for good reason. Now we'll have to start again from scratch to establish some kind of working relationship. Maybe we'll succeed, but the odds are against us.

I'm grateful we live in a democracy where we can choose who our leaders will be, but I hope someday trade unionists will do a better job of voting their own interests when they walk into the voting booth. In 1982 Deukmejian beat Tom Bradley by less than one percent of the vote. Who got him into office? We did! There were far more than 55,000 building trades members who voted for Deukmejian in that election and he returned the favor by sticking it to us for the next eight years.

The same thing happened this time. Our district offices all conducted phone banks prior to the election. Many of our own members said they would not vote for Feinstein. The reasons they gave usually had nothing to do with the issues that affect our own paychecks. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but when I walk into that voting booth, I vote for the people who care about me as a working person. In this day of uncertain economy and anti-union sentiment, it still seems like a pretty good idea.

Victories by Wilson, Prop. 140 don't bode well for labor

By James Earp, Managing Editor

A low voter turnout and heavy support from the state's rural areas gave Senator Pete Wilson the edge he needed to become the next governor of California in this month's General Election. The tight race turned out to be a heartbreaker for labor unions, who had burned the midnight oil in an effort to get Democratic candidate Dianne Feinstein elected.

"We fought a good fight," Local 3 Business Manager Tom Stapleton stated. "Sometimes it's harder when you only lose by a very slim margin, because you start to second guess yourself and wonder what could have been done differently to pull off the victory. But in the end, I think we all worked hard and did the best we could."

The other big loss for labor — and indeed all of California — was the passage of Proposition 140, which promises to completely change the face of government in the state. This measure places term limits on the state Senate, assembly and constitutional offices, and eliminates pensions for legislators. In passing Proposition 140, voters were giving a clear message that they are fed up with the current system of government. Unfortunately, this new law may very well turn California's political system from something many people find merely distasteful into a real nightmare.

"I'll be the first to admit there were some legislators in Sacramento who didn't deserve to be there," Stapleton said. "But if we don't like them, we should vote them out. Proposition 140 will fill the state capitol with amateurs. If people didn't like professional politicians, wait until they get a taste of what's coming. Proposition 140 is clearly the most distressful thing to happen in California in a very long time."

Except for the Gubernatorial race, Local 3 endorsed candidates for California's constitutional offices did well. Winners were Leo McCarthy for Lt. Governor, March Fong Eu for Secretary of State, Kathleen Brown for Treasurer, John Garamendi for Insurance Commissioner, Gray Davis for Controller and William Bennett and Brad Sherman for Board of Equalization.

At press time, ballots were still being counted in the extremely tight race for State Attorney General, but Local 3 endorsed candidate Arlo Smith from San Francisco was trailing by a hair-splitting 2,800 votes.

In the State Assembly, the only surprise was Democratic incumbent Norm Watters, who was narrowly defeated by Republican opponent David Knowles. Knowles squeaked into office by only 3,147 votes — a 2 percent margin.

All eight candidates for state senator endorsed by Local 3 were victorious, including Mike Thompson, who beat out Republican incumbent Jim Nielsen, and Pat Johnston, who beat out Patty Garmendi for the seat vacated by Garmendi's husband, John. In the congressional races, Local 3 backed candidate Calvin Dooley beat out incumbent "Chip" Pashayan for District 17 in the San Francisco area.

(Continued on page 3)
Weiss pleads no contest on bribery

SAN JOSE – The sleaze factor finally caught up to San Jose transit mall contractor David Weiss.

After a lengthy trial that cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and triggered a Local 3 investigation, Weiss pleaded no contest last month to felony conspiracy charges. He was sentenced to three years probation and given a five-month county jail term to serve at his Menlo Park home and office while wearing an electronic monitor. Weiss was also fined close to $19,000.

In return for the no-contest plea to a charge of felony conspiracy to obtain money from the city of San Jose and Santa Clara County under false pretenses, nine counts of bribery were dropped and folded into the conspiracy count. Eight of 27 charges against Weiss and his firm alleging misdemeanor unemployment tax code violations were also dropped. The firm also pleaded no contest to the remaining violations.

The bribery charges stemmed from expensive gifts Weiss gave to San Jose public works officials in 1986 while Weiss Bros. was building the bus and trolley mall. A month earlier, a judge dismissed a grand theft charge against Weiss that alleged he had taken more than $2.5 million in payments for storm and sanitary sewer installations that were badly flawed. But testimony showed that the city had known about the problem for years, so the judge dropped the charges, ruling that the three-year statute of limitations had expired.

Last year a federal jury acquitted Weiss of charges that he evaded more than $300,000 in income taxes in 1985 and 1986. After Weiss agreed to plead guilty to embezzlement, federal prosecutors dropped charges that Weiss had personally embezzled about $225,000 from employees’ health and pension funds during the mall construction.

Local 3 began investigating Weiss Bros. Construction of McKeeport, Pa., nearly six years ago. After checking public records in states where Weiss Bros. had worked, Local 3 discovered that the company left a trail of debts, liens and judgements incurred on past jobs it had done in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and that the projects were riddled with faulty construction work.

Further checking revealed that Weiss Bros. was able to obtain a permanent California contractor’s license even though Local 3 presented evidence to the state Contractor’s License Board showing how the company had misrepresented itself in answering several questions on the application.

Based on this information, Local 3 contended that the San Jose City Council should have awarded the mall contract to the lowest responsible bidder, not just the lowest bidder. But the San Jose City Council voted 6-4 in favor of awarding the contract to Weiss Bros. At the same time, the council voted to appropriate nearly a half-million dollars to hire additional inspectors to keep an eye on Weiss Bros. during construction of the mall.

“Everything that we said about Weiss Bros. came true,” said Local 3 Business Manager Tom Stapleton.

“We demonstrated that Weiss was a poor contractor. We predicted it would cost more if a non-union contractor did the job, and it did. We predicted that he would cause San Jose problems, and he did. This is a case study of how awarding bodies need to examine the quality of the firms they contract out to.”

Embarcadero job delayed

San Francisco’s hopes of a quick demolition job of the section of Embarcadero Freeway damaged in last year’s earthquake went up in smoke this month when Caltrans officials announced the federal government intends to “go by the book,” and require several impact studies that were earlier thought to be unnecessary.

The Federal Highway Administration is requiring an environmental assessment of the $15 million demolition project, including analysis of noise, dust, air quality, historic preservation and other issues that Caltrans previously thought could be avoided.

San Francisco County Supervisors wanted the demolition put on a fast track so that the ground underneath the freeway can be paved into a temporary expressway to ease downtown traffic congestion while the city debates a permanent Embarcadero replacement. Agnos and Caltrans thought, with cooperation from the federal government, that demolition would start as early as January.

So Caltrans prepared a “declaration of no significant impact” to federal highway administrators, saying the Embarcadero’s demolition would cause no lasting harm to the environment and surrounding properties. But the high-speed administration in Sacramento said federal regulations called for Caltrans to do the assessment anyhow.

The mile-long stretch of Oakland Bay Bridge that collapsed during the Oct. 17 earthquake was carted off in a month at a cost of $1 million. Caltrans officials say the Embarcadero job will be much more complicated because of the close proximity of other buildings and because the freeway is still standing.
Reservist returns from stint in Saudi Arabia

Support from Local 3 abounds during Desert Shield deployment

By Steve Moler
Assistant Editor

When Dave DeWilde, a heavy-duty repair instructor at Local 3's Rancho Murieta training center, joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves 14 years ago, he never thought the threat of war would be so real.

So when Dave's unit, the 940th Air Refueling Group, became one of the first reserve groups deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield, the call to duty quickly transformed into fear of the unknown and concern for his family. What impressed Dave about his 30-day stint in the Middle East wasn't the military operation—it seemed like an unusual exercise—but what took place at home.

It all began the weekend after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, when the 940th was on its monthly training exercise. But instead of the usual Sunday afternoon shutdown, the 940th kept a high state of readiness. Crews went home instructed to pack their bags and be ready for deployment.

At a late-night briefing five days later at Mather Air Force Base, home of the 940th, Dave's unit was told it would be going to Saudi Arabia sometime soon, but the exact time and day was unknown.

"Learning that we were going to Saudi Arabia was a shock," Dave said. "I never dreamed we'd go there because I didn't think they had the facilities to handle our aircraft. The fact that we were going into a totally unknown environment made me feel a little nervous. The imminent danger struck me; this was something that could end my life. I'm not afraid of dying, it's just that the thought of never seeing my wife and family again scared me."

Unlike active-duty servicemen, whose lives center around possible combat everyday, reservists tend to be mainstream folks with careers and families to support and mortgages to pay. When they're deployed, entirely different problems arise, like figuring out how to survive financially on their lean military salary.

"There was plenty of things to be concerned about over there, like the heat, the threat of chemical warfare, the unknown environment," he said. "The last thing I needed to be worried about was finances."

For the next three and half weeks, Dave was on standby. Because his home and job were within 30 minutes of Mather, he didn't have to live on base. In fact, Dave resumed his normal teaching duties at Rancho Murieta and lived at home until the call to duty came. To facilitate the communication between him and the base, Local 3 furnished Dave with a cellular telephone.

One day during the standby period, Dave walked into the office of JAC Administrator Larry Uhde to discuss Dave's financial predicament. "I asked him very apprehensively about my salary and expecting not to get it," Dave recalled. But to Dave's surprise, Uhde agreed to pay the difference between Dave's military pay and his Local 3 salary for up to three months.

"Without any hesitation Larry was very supportive," Dave said. "He told me no matter how long I was gone my job would be there when I returned. Larry told me that if my wife, Lynette, needed anything, she could call the training center. That was just great."

With one less worry, Dave focused more attention on preparing for Operation Desert Shield. On August 9, Dave received orders to report to Mather the next morning; it seemed he was finally leaving for the Middle East. Several KC 135Es roared into the sky that morning—except one. At the last moment, Dave's KC 135E was held at the base because military commanders wanted to keep at least one plane at the base as a spare. Once again excitement turned to let down. "I was so psyched up to go, then I felt empty, left behind," he said.

By late August, Operation Desert Shield had become the largest military mobilization since the Vietnam War. For the first time since 1968, reserves from all branches of the military were activated. War seemed imminent.

On August 30, Dave received orders once again to report to the base the next day. This time his plane was leaving for sure. "I felt relieved. I had a little bit of apprehension about the unknown. I went from feeling fear to turning it around and trying to concentrate on doing my job."

On the 17-hour flight to Saudi Arabia via England, Dave passed the time by installing new filters in his gas mask and peering down at the Mediterranean and Red seas through the KC 135's refueling boom pod. Because of the support he received from Local 3 and knowing his family would be taken care of, Dave didn't think so much about home, rather he prepared himself to do his job and handle the conditions in Saudi Arabia.

When the KC 135 arrived at a Saudi Arabian air base around noon, Dave opened the plane's cargo door and was greeted with a blast of 100-degree-plus heat. As soon as the crew began unloading the plane's cargo, they began to perspire like men in a sauna cramped up to 160 degrees. All Dave saw was concrete and desert.

During the time Dave was in Saudi Arabia, the 940th worked 12-hour shifts maintaining and fueling cargo and tanker planes that flew missions around the clock. In contrast to the army "grunts" and marine "leathernecks" camped out in the desert, the 940th lived in comfortable, air-conditioned barracks a short bus ride from the base. The men had every tenth day off, a time to relax, do laundry and catch up on letter writing.

Dave received a letter from Lynette that explained how she had called a co-worker at Rancho Murieta and asked for help in fixing the broken water well system at the DeWilde home. Within an hour mechanic Steve Gaylord showed up at the house and fixed the problem. "Those were the kinds of things that made me feel..." (Continued on page 5)
The 600-acre Rancho Palomares subdivision takes shape near Hayward, Calif.

Can subdivisions and nature coexist?
At Rancho Palomares, The Lyon Company and Oliver de Silva are saying ‘yes’

By Steve Moler
Assistant Editor

Twenty years ago Quirt Kelly worked as a surveyor for the U.S. Forest Service. At a staff meeting one day he and his colleagues were told that the Forest Service was changing its ways: roads would be built with more curves to minimize their environmental impact. Everyone in the room laughed at this seemingly ludicrous idea—except Bill Helms. Don’t laugh, he told the group, in 20 years mitigating environmental impacts won’t be a joke; it will be reality.

Today Kelly works as a project superintendent for Oliver de Silva. From his pickup truck he scans the vast Rancho Palomares subdivision projects under construction in the foothills between Castro Valley and Hayward, Calif. The bright yellow flagging strung around environmentally fragile areas reminds him that Bill Helms’ prediction has come true in a big way.

Rancho Palomares is one of only a few subdivisions under construction in Northern California where the developer, contractor and government have been successful at mitigating adverse environmental impacts caused by construction of large developments in an environmentally sensitive area. The traditional “man over nature” philosophy, at least at Rancho Palomares, has been shelved in favor of a “man in harmony with nature” approach, and it seems to be working.

Considering the project’s size and location—600 acres in rolling foothills—Rancho Palomares has proceeded through the numerous environmental reviews and monitoring with far fewer problems and less controversy than expected. All parties involved, from the developer to the operator in the field, have made painstaking efforts to meet the strict guidelines established by the many environmental consultants and government agencies. Rancho Palomares indeed is special.

When the project is finally completed in five to six years, Rancho Palomares will contain 960 housing units, a small shopping center, day care center, fire station, recreation center and an RV parking area, all nestled among 300 acres of open space and parks that will contain miles of hiking and equestrian trails twisting through oak-lined canyons and hilly grasslands.

When the project’s developer, The William Lyon Company, decided to build at Rancho Palomares in October 1985, the arduous task of obtaining the necessary building permits began. The Lyon Company first applied to Alameda County to change the zoning from agriculture to commercial. But before this could happen The Lyon Company had to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) that would satisfy Alameda County.

Several consultants—a resource biologist, a financial analyst, a visual expert, an archaeologist, a tree specialist and a geologist—were hired to evaluate the proposed development, outline the likely environmental impacts and make recommendations on how to minimize these impacts. The EIR was drafted and submitted to the Alameda County Planning Commission for its consideration. After some fine tuning, the county board of supervisors approved the EIR in May 1989. The board identified 65 conditions that The Lyon Company had to meet before any homes could be built, everything from traffic congestion to day care.

Because the environmental impact were severe, The Lyon Company searched for a top-notch contractor that could juggle monitoring and mitigating the environmental problems.

(Continued on page 6)
Rancho Palomares
(Continued from page 5)

while moving seven million yards of dirt. Oliver de Silva fit the bill.

“We admired the work Oliver de Silva had done in the area,” said Dave Coombs of the William Lyon Company. “We didn’t have the expertise and resources to manage such a large, environmentally sensitive project like Rancho Palomares, so we contracted ODS. We liked their integrity and excellent construction personnel.”

From an environmental standpoint, protecting and preserving the 300 acres of open space became the greatest challenge for The Lyon Company and Oliver de Silva—and eventually the Operating Engineers that had to move their equipment so carefully through the development. The wildlife, wetlands and tree protection plans were probably the most critical.

Because of the large number of oaks on the site, the county naturally wanted to save as many trees as possible. So a tree specialist, Berrie Coate Associates, was hired to develop a tree preservation plan compatible with the EIR. The plan called for some trees to be left untouched, others to be transplanted to other areas of the county and the rest to be temporarily boxed in planters and later replanted within the subdivision. For every mature oak that had to be cut down six new ones had to be planted.

Because Rancho Palomares is located in undeveloped foothills on the fringe of the East Bay’s suburban sprawl, wildlife protection became another major environmental concern. Habitat for the California Whip Snake, a state endangered species, had to be created. Creek beds, where deer feed and travel, had to be preserved. One entire canyon was left in its natural state to maintain deer, fox, and hawk habitat.

“People who live at Rancho Palomares will be able to walk out of their homes and after a five-minute walk be in the midst of an unspoiled canyon filled with native oaks,” Coombs said. “They’ll think they are 25 miles from civilization.”

Before a single yard of dirt was moved, surveyors accompanied by the environmental consultants and representatives from the California Department of Fish and Game surveyed the development according to guidelines outlined in the EIR. Sensitive areas were cordoned off with bright yellow tape to warn Operating Engineers where not to drive their equipment.

When the time came for Oliver de Silva to move its iron onto the

From left: Grade Setter Karen Roberds and Business Agent Dennis DeCosta.

Below: Sixteen scrapers, eight dozers and seven compactors will continue to move dirt through the winter.

Above: The Oliver de Silva crew at Rancho Palomares.
enough to delay or stop the project. During the tree removal, Coate visited the site weekly to make sure the right trees were removed, saved or transplanted. In many cases operators had to carefully maneuver their equipment underneath the oaks to avoid destroying or damaging trees they weren't supposed to touch. These mistakes could have cost Oliver de Silva fines ranging from $80,000 to $100,000. In these touchy situations, the extra skills and experience of union operators came in handy.

With winter approaching, Alameda County and the California Department of Fish and Game are concerned about silting. If erosion isn't controlled adequately during the rainy season, too much soil could move downstream into Don Castro Reservoir. To prevent this from happening, Operating Engineers are building several on-site siltation ponds that will trap the sediments. When the ponds dry next spring, operators will simply move the dirt to another part of the development.

The key to Rancho Palomares' success can be attributed primarily to solid teamwork. From the outset The Lyon Company conceived an environmental vision for Rancho Palomares, then hired the appropriate contractor, Oliver de Silva, which assembled an excellent management team. Lead by Project Manager Bob McCarrick, Oliver de Silva's team has worked closely with neighborhood groups, community leaders, the environmental consultants and all the government agencies to get the project off the drawing board and into construction with minimal delays.

"Bob and all the people at Oliver de Silva have been very open minded about these mitigations," Game Warden Pam Robinson said. "They're giving me the results I need."

"This project has had a sophisticated approach to mitigating the environmental impacts," said Alameda County Planner Sara Pandl. "There's been a good team effort. The Lyon Company and Oliver de Silva have taken a lot of responsibility to ensure that all the requirements are met. It seems that ODS is getting the information to the operators. If you don't have cooperation in the field, the plan won't work."

Because the plan is working, Rancho Palomares likely will be one of the rare housing developments where people can sing "Home on the Range" and really see the deer and the antelope playing.
Hazmat certification

Many surveyors have told me that for safety reasons they won't work on Hazmat sites. But what they may not know is that new federal and state laws regulating Hazmat sites have been passed. Jobs that had no regulations three years ago are now controlled under CFR-1910.120. More sites are now included under this new law. For example, old service station sites that may have had leaky fuel tanks are now covered under CFR-1910.120. These jobs all require 40-hour Hazmat certification.

I recommend that surveyors interested in their personal health--and that of their families--enroll in one of Rancho Murieta's Hazmat classes to learn to recognize hazardous situations and to improve their employability.

Many surveyors were difficult to fill this year because surveyors didn't have the necessary certification, which could have been obtained by taking the 40-hour Hazmat course.

The class consists of the following components:

1. Type of sites and equipment
2. Site problems, layout, toxic, site plan
3. RCRA and CERCLA laws
4. Medical surveillance and heat stress
5. Industrial hygiene and toxicology
6. Air monitoring and instruments
7. Material safety data sheets
8. Respiratory protection
9. Protective clothing and decontamination
10. Placards and warnings
11. Noise and construction safety
12. Fire, first aid and emergencies
13. Group problem solving

Hazmat class schedule at Rancho Murieta

(May 1991)
Dec. 3 - Dec. 7, 1990
40-hour class
Dec. 10, 1990
8-hour class
Dec. 11, 1990

8-hour class
Feb. 4 - Feb. 8, 1991
40-hour class
Feb. 11, 1991
8-hour class
Feb. 12, 1991
8-hour class
Mar. 4 - Mar. 8, 1991
40-hour class
April 8 - April 12, 1991
40-hour class
May 6 - May 10, 1991
40-hour class
May 13, 1991
8-hour class
May 14, 1991
8-hour class
Please contact Bill Schneider or Dave Young at (916)383-8480 to sign up for these classes.

Bill Schneider,
Tech. Engineers Division

Party Chief Norm Jeffery (left) and Chairman James Shelton (right), both employed by Nolte and Associates, completed the 40-hour Hazmat class instructed by Bill Schneider (center) in July at the Rancho Murieta training center.

In our busy lives, we are always looking for the best and easiest way of doing things. That's why our credit union has designed its programs based on both service and convenience.

Members want convenient locations when they deal with a financial institution. Your credit union has responded by opening seven branch offices to serve you, with more branches expected to open in 1991. If an office is not near you, don't let that stop you from using the credit union. You don't need to come into an office to benefit from the programs your credit union has to offer.

There are ways you can save time and money and still get the service you want. You can open a checking account by mail and have your employer direct deposit your payroll check right into your account. The deposit is made the same day you are paid, with no waiting in line and no wasted time driving to an office. You will save money because there isn't a monthly service charge no matter what your balance. Also, on balances of $300 or more we pay you dividends.

If you are a member that needs cash readily available to you, there is no easier way than with your credit union automatic teller machine (ATM) card. Get up to $200 in cash on any day at any time. Just look for an ATM displaying any of the logos shown on the back of the ATM card. There are thousands of machines all over the country where you can use your card. ATM cards end the worry of having to get to an office between business hours to cash a check.

For members who need more flexible hours to conduct credit union business, we recommend the C.A.L.L. service, which is our audio response program that allows you to access your account by telephone when it is best for you. By using a touch-tone phone, our toll free number and your secret code, you can obtain balances, request withdrawals and transfer funds among accounts. It's quick and easy to use, and you can take care of business when you want.

If you are in need of a loan, the credit union's rates and service are hard to beat. Again, there is no need for an office visit. Complete an application in the comfort of your home and mail it to the credit union with your initial request. This application can be used for unsecured and secured loans. Any future loan request may be done by phone once an application is on file. The only exceptions are real estate loans and VISA cards, which require special loan applications. You don't need to take the time to come into the office to sign loan papers. You only need to sign the check you receive in the mail. All credit union loans are processed quickly and you get the benefit of low interest rates and friendly service. There are no application fees or prepayment penalties, and you don't even pay for the call if you use the toll free numbers. What could be more convenient?

Before going anywhere else for your financial needs, check into your credit union. I know you will find we have the convenience, service and money-saving programs you're looking for.

By Bill Markus, Treasurer

YOUR CREDIT UNION
Use contract labs. We want to emphasize how important it is to use contract labs whenever possible. When your doctor orders lab tests, inform him or her of your contract lab program and go to a member lab on your list. If your doctor elects to his or her own lab instead of you going to a member lab, ask your doctor to have the specimen sent to one of the member labs. The doctor’s office may call the lab for a pickup. If you follow this procedure, you’ll save money for yourself and for the trust fund.

Below is a list of recent additions and deletions to the contract lab program:

- Smithkline Beecham Lab
  373 9th St. #6
  Oakland, CA 94607
  (415) 839-3177
- Associated Medical Lab
  1479 Ignacio Valley Rd. #105
  Walnut Creek, CA 94598
  (415) 937-0413
- Alamo Medical Group Lab
  1305 Alphonsus St.
  Alamo, CA 94503
  (415) 837-4225
- Bay Lab
  2089 Yale Rd. #14
  San Pablo, CA 94806
  (415) 234-4210
- Diagnostic Lab
  670 Placerville Dr.
  Placerville, CA 95670
  (916) 638-1860

Sierra Nevada Labs:
- 888 Willow St.
  Reno, NV 89502
  (702) 328-4805
- 11776 Education St.
  Auburn, CA 95603
  (916) 885-0485
- 1212 Coloma Way #B
  Roseville, CA 95679
  (916) 784-9573
- 3025 Mission Ave.
  Carmichael, CA 95608
  (916) 991-8640
- 6620 Coyle Ave. #112
  Carmichael, CA 95608
  (916) 967-6939
- 1631 Stockton Blvd.
  Sacramento, CA 95813
  (916) 731-5939
- 800 Timberlake Way #C
  Sacramento, CA 95879
  (916) 784-9573

Fong Diagnostic Labs:
- 2228 Auburn Blvd. #103
  Sacramento, CA 95821
  (916) 421-4167
- 1102 Jefferson Blvd. #C
  West Sacramento, CA 95691
  (916) 237-9069
- Mann Medical Labs
  2299 Post St. #104
  San Francisco, CA
  (415) 567-5177
- Smithkline Beecham Lab
  2800 N. California St. #2
  Stockton, CA 95204
  (209) 464-3323

Deletions
- Smithkline Beecham Labs:
  2089 Yale Rd.
  San Pablo, CA 94806
  2345 Prater Way #100
  Sparks, NV 89431
- 504 Laurel Hills Dr.
  Sacramento, CA 95819
  5240 Elvas Ave.
  Sacramento, CA 95819

If you have any questions about the contract lab program or any of the other cost containment programs, be sure to call the Fringe Benefit Service Center at (415) 431-1698 or the Trust Fund Service Center at (415) 777-1770.

A reminder
The open enrollment period for joining Kaiser or the regular plan has ended. If you have changed medical plans during the recent open enrollment, be sure to use the plan you have chosen on or after Nov. 1, 1990. For retirees, the open enrollment period for voluntary dental plans has ended. Remember, any choice you have made becomes effective on or after Dec. 1, 1990.

With work slowing down soon, all apprentices and journey upgrades will have a chance to hit the books and get ahead on their topics. We have had good response to the one topic per week minimum requirement. Judging from their input, apprentices have more interest in class procedures. We attribute this to our great staff of instructors, who try to make the classes interesting for the student by not using a study hall approach. The Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprentice Committee would like to thank all apprentices and instructors for their efforts in keeping our program the best available anywhere.

The NCSJAC held a hands-on training day Oct. 6 at the Sacramento Job Corps Center. All of the apprentices who attended were able to work with our instructors in a field environment. Our lead instructor for the day was Joe Sanders, who is also the surveying instructor at the Job Corps. Working with him were instructors Merlie Eli, Ron Neglis, Mike Ronnick and Larry Savio. Joe also had assistant instructor Bruce Lacy putting our apprentices through the paces.

We would like to thank the Job Corps for letting us use its equipment and facility, Delta Day Surveys for its data collector and MTS for its vehicle and equipment. Without the help of these employers our hands-on would not have succeeded.

The NCSJAC is constantly working on our curricula to keep it the best ever. If any of our journey-level apprentices have comments or input, we would appreciate hearing from you. Just write or call the NCSJAC at (415) 635-3255.

The work slow down is a good time to update your standard first aid card. Remember, you cannot advance to the next training period if you are not in possession of current first aid card.

From the staff at the NCSJAC, have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Jordanelle Dam wraps up season

Photo Features by James Earp, Managing Editor

One of the best things that has happened in a long time to Local 3 members in Utah is the Jordanelle Dam project. For the past three years, it has provided steady work for operating Engineers working for Granite Construction, and before them, Torno America.

Recently, Engineers News made a quick visit to the jobsite to get an update on the project. The photo montage above provides a good view of how the project looked as of mid-August.

Karl Poss, project manager for Granite Construction, says tunneling for the project is now complete and concrete lining of the shafts is nearly done. Excavation of the dam itself was completed earlier in the summer. The fill operation began in July 5. During this season’s peak operation, the job employed up to 90 Local 3 members working two 10-hour shifts.

As of mid-August, Poss was hopeful the hands would be able to put another 2-1/2 million yards on before winter sets in.

“When the frost starts, you’re out of the dam business until spring,” Poss told Engineers News. They have been averaging 40,000 to 50,000 yards a day. The project is scheduled to be completed in November 1993.

When completed, the dam will rise nearly 300 feet above the stream bed and have a crest length of about 3,000 feet. Over 16 million yards of material will have been moved when the job is complete.

The dam will provide a vital link in the completion of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project. It will create a reservoir with a capacity of over 320,000 acre-feet of water to be used in Utah and Salt Lake counties, as well as a supplemental irrigation supply for Summit and Wasatch counties.

Operating a 3900 Manitowoc crane at the mouth of the diversion tunnel is operator Al “Legs” Facer and Yvonne Carlsen, oiler.

Little Dell Dam

Tucked away in a valley that branches off from Parley’s Canyon near Salt Lake is a dam construction project that is a case study on how union contracts help not only the workers, but their employers, too.

In July 1989, Clement-Starnes, a non-union company out of North Carolina, won the contract to build Little Dell Dam. As the job geared up, Local 3 representatives met with the company to see if it would sign a union contract. Company representatives were not interested, so Local 3 began an organizing drive with the employees. Many of the workers who were hired work on the project were Local 3 members. As the organizing campaign got underway, they were instrumental in convincing other workers of the benefits of supporting the union.

Two months later, an election was held and Local 3 won the right to represent the employees. Negotiations on a contract commenced in October 1989, but nothing was settled by the time the job shut down for winter.

When work started up again last spring, contract negotiations resumed, but the project manager resisted serious negotiations. As the job went into full gear, more and more Local 3 members put pressure on the company to finalize a contract. Finally a new project manager was sent brought in by the company in July and a contract was negotiated and ratified in October (see article on
By that time, it was clear that the project had serious problems. Inexperienced management and unforeseen problems with the material had put the project behind schedule. Sam Burdette, the new project manager, got the project rolling again and was instrumental in finalizing a contract with the union. Burdette acknowledges the value to experienced hands on the job and praised the quality of Local 3 equipment operators working on the project.

Designed to be a flood control and water storage project, Little Dell Dam was originally scheduled for completion in October 1991. But now it may be 1993 before the job is done.

The project entails moving 5 million yards of material and construction of a diversion tunnel. The tunnel has been bored and is currently being lined with concrete. Workers hope to complete the tunnel in time to handle spring runoff, so that work on the dam can continue unhindered.

The job is not without its share of challenges. Burdette concedes that it has not been easy to get sufficient material to meet the job specs. Gravel, which is a key component of the "Random 1 and 2" zones that comprise all but the impervious core, has been hard to come by in sufficient quantity.

"It's been real tough to find enough gravel, because we don't have X-ray vision," Burdette told Engineers News.

During peak construction this year, the project employed about 220 construction workers - the majority of them operating engineers - working two 11-hour shifts, six days a week.

Pictured above are some of the Local 3 day shift hands working for Clement-Starnes on Little Dell Dam. Below is a view of the dam from above the east abutment.
Labor’s effort helps boost voter turnout

SALT LAKE CITY – I’m happy to report that significant gains were made in the Nov. 6 election. I wanted to thank all the many volunteers who donated their time and effort on phone banks, in walking districts for the delegates, in making lawn signs and contributing money to the various candidates.

It’s been a very busy last few months with interviewing candidates, learning their views and letting them know what organized labor expects from them in the political arena if they wanted our money and support.

Local 3 in Utah has had a very active voter registration program. We appreciated all who took the time to get themselves registered.

The media here had predicted a voter turnout of about 30 percent, but they were wrong. I think, through the efforts of organized labor, we made a significant difference in helping raise the turnout to 57 percent. This is fantastic for a mid-term election. Now that we’ve tasted victory, we should keep the momentum going in an assertive and positive manner.

I’m aware of the political process and know we all get disgusted with our system of government, but the fact remains the only way we’ll ever help the process is to become involved and make things happen.

Once again, I’m encouraged. Let’s keep it going. It’s never too early to get involved.

Donald Strate, District Rep.

Local 3 signs contract with Clement-Starnes

Winning the election for the Clement-Starnes project at Little Dell Dam in October 1989 was just the beginning of a long struggle to get a contract. One year ago almost to the day we finally signed an agreement that benefited all our members. Over 30 Local 3 members who have been working there for over a year now supported our organizing drive during its highs and lows. They stuck with the campaign until we finally won.

Clement-Starnes expects to employ over 80 operators starting next spring. They will probably work two or three shifts.

I just want to thank all the members for their support. We had something to prove to those contractors who tell us they don’t need unions and can get their jobs done without us. If Clement-Starnes had to do it over again, it would have signed the first day of the job. Clement-Starnes has said many times how capable our members are and what a fine job they do.

We did it with Clement-Starnes. We’ll do it again!

Gibbons & Reed subdivision job replaces vital wetlands habitat

Subdivision work has come a long way since the old days. Like many projects today in California, Gibbons & Reed’s latest subdivision job near Park City involves more than the typical grading, excavation and curbs and gutters. The Silver Springs development lies adjacent to a natural wetlands habitat, and in order to obtain approval for the project, the developer had to agree to create new wetlands area to replace acreage used by the development.

Pictured right on paddlewheel is Navin Mills. Below are blade operator Kevin Kinder and superintendent Glen Mills. Pictured bottom right is Jody Jonsson on dozer.
Hazmat course enhances employability

SALT LAKE CITY - Anyone who wants to work on hazardous waste job sites must have special certification. That's why Hazmat training was recently held in Utah under the direction of District Representative Don Strate. Rick Bryan, JAC program training coordinator, taught the course. Working on a hazardous materials site requires initial training of 40 hours followed by eight hours of refresher course work each year.

One class was held in May at the Spanish Fork training site, where journeymen and apprentices had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience using Hazmat equipment. Hazmat trainees who completed this class were Barbara Richins, Kitty Kirkwood, Jeff McCargar, Jim Kosec, Brooks Morros, Richard Taniguchi, Kelsey Thompson, Jerry Kosco, Johnny Jones and Rick Potter. Another Hazmat class was held in October, and the following trainees completed the course: Merrill D. Wilson, Trent Clark, Robert Zuspan, Orlando Chacon, Ronnie Laymon, Andrew Wilen, Hilbert Chavez, Ted Laymon, Clark Anderson, Dale Facer, Shawn Facer and Richard Johnson.

Local 3 members who attended the Hazmat training course in May were from left: Brooks Morrow, Kitty Kirkwood, Richard Taniguchi, Rick Potter, Barbara Richins, Kelsey Thompson and Johnny Jones.

The classes helped these individuals prepare for work on hazardous waste sites. Many people have had second thoughts about working on hazardous waste jobs after attending the classes and learning some of the hazards inherent with this type of work.

There will be work in the hazardous waste field, and members should know what the hazards are and how to protect themselves and their families from these exposures. Hazardous materials, as well as chemicals, solvents and oils, may be present on the site where you are currently working.

Learn the facts. Under the law, you're entitled to know what chemicals you're working with. If you're interested in working the jobs that require Hazmat training, contact your dispatch office and you can be notified of upcoming classes.

Take pride in your union and become involved. Keep what you have and support your union!

Donald Strate, District Rep.

After slow start, jobs finishing strong in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY - With winter approaching the work is slowing and some jobs are tying up for the long, cold months ahead. We've had a good second half of 1990 because of the pipeline work, Gregory and Cook's work in Vernal and other areas around the state, M.H. Cook's jobs at several locations and Enoch Smith's crews working on several smaller projects in Utah and neighboring states.

To top this, two dams being built in Utah practically cleaned the ball. Granite Construction has had two shifts working most of the season and is making good progress on its project at Jordanelle.

We want to welcome Clement-Starnes to the union world. The company signed an agreement to complete a project at Little Dell Dam, which should be continuing at least another year. Again, I want to thank the members and our organizing crew who helped turn this job our way.

Gibbons & Reed Company has kept many hands busy this year with its work around the state. This company started slow, along with most other contractors this spring, but should finish with a pretty good year.

With two shifts working, Ron Lewis Construction is off to a good start on the Park City junction project. W.W. Clyde & Company has a crew working on the waste disposal project at Knolls, Utah. This project should last a few more months but could last into 1991. One major consideration in this area is non-union LeGrand Johnson, which wants more of the work. Let's out-perform and out-work this company and get the work for our union hands. Go team! Many of you may be unaware that the district meeting on Nov. 28 in Ogden will be the last official meeting for District Representative Don Strate, who is retiring at the end of 1990. Come to this meeting and give Don a fine farewell.

See you all there. Bring a friend if you have one.

Virgil A. Blair, Business Agent

Job stewards help employer and union

SANTA ROSA - Job stewards are the backbone of our union field representation, which is why here in Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma counties we are attempting to build a strong and healthy job steward program.

We've begun implementing a quarterly stewards meeting, which will be held the first Wednesday of each quarter. Our next meeting will be Jan. 2, 1991. Jack Short, safety director and director of job stewards, will discuss the Local 3 job steward program.

We also plan on presenting our yearly job stewards awards. Categories to be recognized include the Job Steward of the Year, Tallest Job Steward, Steward Servicing the Largest Job, Steward Servicing the Toughest Job, and finally the Dyed Underwear (safety orange) Award for most complaints in one day.

I would like to thank the following stewards for attending our last meeting and caring enough to take the time to participate: Don Oeth of Hogue Equipment, Dean Birrell of Peterson Tractor, Bill Smith of Ghilotti Brothers, Gary Pina of Kaiser Sand and Gravel, and Dennis Becker of Ghilotti Brothers.

At this meeting, we had a brainstorming session, and this produced ideas ranging from stewards' sun shades for cars to circulating a list of stewards' phone numbers among our current job stewards.

The primary concern, however, seemed to be the fact that the company sees the appointed steward as a spy for the union and subtly discriminates against him, while union members at the job site view the steward as "being in bed" with the employers. As a result, the members don't trust their own representatives.

We hope to cure the "spy syndrome" here in our area. We will accomplish this primarily through education and communication. Both the employer and the employee need to realize the full value of an effective steward and concentrate on the good that can be achieved by our stewards. After all, a steward is the union's on-site representative; he is at the same time the employer's best ally in resolving problems on the job site.

Bob Miller, Business Agent
Ride 'em cowboys

Oakland hands break into rodeo competition

OAKLAND – Over the Labor Day weekend Local 3 members in the Oakland district broke into their first rodeo competition without a hitch. The First Annual Oakland District Rodeo, which took place September 1 and 2 at the Shorelands Regional Park in Martinez, was a huge success.

This International Professional Rodeo Association event was produced by Spur Production, a company whose president happened to be Local 3 member Terry Andrade. He convinced the IPRA that since the rodeo was held on Labor Day, a labor organization ought to participate.

Local 3 members entered all the rodeo events and were also involved in the Wild Cow Milking contest. Local 3 members Manuel Gabriel and Gary Tennyson, both of St. Francis Electric, took first place. Runners-up were Bill Lytle and Chris Robles of Peterson Tractor, Steve Lassen and Tom McGinty of Redgewick Construction, Ron Casaleggi and Joe Mendes of Granite Construction, Leo Murray and Frank Imhof of Oliver de Silva, and Frank Imhof and Jeff Murray representing Oliver de Silva.

Other sponsors were Kaiser Sand and Gravel, Jamieson Company, the Engineering Underground Contractor Association, Foster Excavating, MJB Pipeline, Betchart and Norwood, Ransome, and Bay Cities Paving and Grading.

Local 3 contributed all its pre-event proceeds to Children's Hospital in Berkeley.

Get ready for next year! This rodeo will be an annual Oakland District event to take place on Labor Day. Although our guys took their bruises in the Wild Cow Milking contest, they said next year we should include cattle penning and team roping. If enough members are interested in these additional events, we'll add them to next year's rodeo schedule. Call me at the Oakland district office at (415)638-7273.

Brian Bishop,
Business Agent

Leo Murray and Frank Imhof of Oliver de Silva.

Wild cow Milking Contest Winners Manuel Gabriel and Gary Tennyson.
New mines contract yields hefty benefits

ELKO - After two months of intense negotiations, a new three-year contract has been ratified by Local 3 members working at Newmont Gold that contains substantial improvements in wages and working conditions. The new contract gives our members an across-the-board hourly pay increase of $1.36 over the next three years. In addition, several job categories received reclassification and substantial pay increases. For example, laborers in mine operations will automatically advance from Laborer to Sampler after six months and receive a $2.27 an hour pay increase. Laborers in the mill will automatically receive a $3.60 an hour pay increase. The agreement also provides a 4 per cent to a maximum of 6 per cent of his or her annual gross base pay in 1990 and 1991, and from 4 per cent to a maximum of 8 per cent of his or her annual gross base pay in 1992. These bonuses are in addition to the reclassification and the across-the-board pay increases. On top of all the pay increases, a 401K savings plan will be implemented Oct. 1, 1991. Employees may put up to 12 percent of their pretax income into the plan. If a member puts 2 percent or more of his or her monthly earnings into the plan, for example, the company will put in 2 percent.

Local 3 helps mock Halloween

ELKO - In this town, not everyone trick or treated on Halloween the old-fashioned way. Some 5,000 Elko youngsters and their parents tried something new. They gathered in a gymnasium on Oct. 30 and 31 to trick or treat through a mock neighborhood that to some parents may have looked more like a Hollywood movie set. The purpose of having children trick or treat down simulated streets was to teach them the safe way to enjoy Halloween and provided a place for them to get candy that was sure to be safe from tampering.

For the past three years, the Elko City Police Athletic League (PAL) has sponsored the Trick or Treat Street. Bogus citations were issued to children who called on homes with no lights on or who walked in the street instead of staying on the sidewalk.

Local 3 helped provide the mock Halloween event by working with the PAL to help train our stewards for a memorable experience. Brothers Vincent Frank, Frank Seip, Dale Deming, Joe Deen, Chuck Friend, Dan Venters and Tim Hussey were the rank and file committee members.

It is now time to work in solidarity to make this new agreement work for us.

Stewards training

Our thanks to Local 3 Business Manager Tom Stapleton, treasurer Don Luba and organizing director Jerry Bennett for allowing Derlin Proctor and Bob Yturiaga to come to Elko to help train our stewards. After eight months of training and numerous video sessions of mock grievances, we graduated several stewards. These stewards faithfully attended their meetings and met the pre-established attendance requirements to receive the mining division steward belt buckle and Local 3 certification.

Siemon Ostrander, Business Rep.
Safety Guards

“Say what?” Hearing loss can be prevented by using ear plugs

Climbing the steps of the Seafarers union hall in San Francisco, I shouldered my way through the crowd of Local 3 members gathered in the doorway. The din of conversation spilled over me as I entered the auditorium, where the Local 3 Semi-Annual Meeting was about to begin.

The hall was nearly filled as groups of Local 3 members stood around telling dirt-moving stories. I found it difficult to understand what was being said; the conversations all blended together into a low roar. As I watched, unable to understand what was being said, I noticed some strange body movements from within each group. Heads rotated in unison in an attempt to gain the best possible angle to receive the story teller’s words. At the same time, bodies leaned, as if blown by a gentle breeze, in the direction of the speaker. As the story tellers changed, so did the direction of the breeze, always bending the group members gently in the direction of the speaker.

I joined a number of guys I knew and found that invisible breeze hit me in the same way. The more noise there was around me, the harder it was to distinguish the words that were being said. And from the looks of things I wasn’t the only one. Why was so many people at the semi-annual having the same trouble I was. Were we all hard of hearing? For the most part, the answer was yes.

Heavy construction is very hard on the human ear, and without ear protection, permanent hearing loss can occur. As a mechanic and welder, I spent many years in and around running diesel engines, trying to heal their ills, all the while ignoring the resulting ringing sound emanating from my inner ear. I suspected an operator sitting behind or along side a bellerin’ Cat or screaming Detroit diesel engine eight to 12 hours a day without ear protection would experience the same ringing. I didn’t want to appear to be a pantywaist, so I just kept my head in there. The rings to be a real pain in the butt. He seemed to be off in another world half the time, and the other times you had to yell at man, and often he hadn’t heard his wife either, even when he wanted to. This 35-year-old operator was fitted with hearing aids—one in each ear—and a whole new world of sounds opened up for him. He was fortunate the hearing aids helped. That’s not always the case.

The hearing loss that my friend and I—and probably many of you reading this—have experienced is easily prevented. Simple ear plugs or muffs will prevent or greatly reduce hearing loss related to our trade. I’m now taking better care of my hearing. I always carry ear plugs with me and use them whenever I am around intense noises. I have even given them to my son to use when he goes to rap concerts. I don’t know if he uses them, but at least I tried. Operating Engineers health and welfare will help you purchase hearing aids. But a 50-cent pair of ear plugs is a much better investment.

Gene Herndon, Curriculun Coordinator
Alcoholism causes drinking, not the other way around

One may make excuses, saying, "Of course dad deserves a drink, he's had a really tough day at work." Others may assume guilt. They may feel that if they had acted in a certain manner, for example, had received straight As on their report card or kept the house cleaner, things would have been different.

Still another family member may attempt to make things perfect so there won't be any reason for the alcoholic to take a drink. This person attempts to control everything around them in order to control the alcoholic's behavior. These are all classic symptoms of the disease within the family.

The common belief that outside events cause the alcoholic to drink is another of the countless myths surrounding alcoholism. In fact, according to alcoholic and drug treatment specialists, no person, place or thing can make an alcoholic drink or not drink. If alcoholics have a disease that has not been treated, that is, if they aren't recovering, they will drink, no matter what.

On the other hand, if alcoholics receive treatment and have a strong recovery program, almost nothing can make them take a drink. Often those recovering from alcoholism, especially those involved in self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, are able to cope with the ups and downs of life more easily than many so-called "normal" people.

More information about alcoholism, chemical dependency and recovery is available through the Addiction Recovery Program. All calls are confidential. In Northern California call 1-800-562-3277. Outside California call 1-800-562-2773.

**CORRECTION!**

In last month's Engineers News, we reported that two crane bills, AB 2537 and AB 3826, passed by the California Legislature were vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian. The second bill, AB 3826, sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Hayden, was signed into law by the Governor.

The new law requires Cal-OSHA to establish a safety inspection system for all tower cranes operated in the state. The program will include safety inspection of tower cranes twice a year, increased penalties for violations of tower crane safety rules and standards and mandatory permits issued by the division prior to operating a tower crane at any work site.

The law says that Cal-OSHA may suspend or revoke the permit of a crane where the employer engages in gross negligence, gross incompetence, or willful or repeated disregard of any occupational safety standard applicable to the crane.

**Union Briefs**

Progress on construction safety bill

A House subcommittee has approved the Construction Safety, Health and Education Improvement Act (H.R. 4652) by a vote of 3-2. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Joseph Gaydos (D-Pa.), will now be sent to the House Education and Labor Committee, where it is tentatively scheduled to be marked up early this month.

In passing the measure, Gaydos stressed the need for more stringent federal regulations in the construction industry, where some 2,500 workers die each year in construction accidents and about 650,000 are injured (see July 1990 EN). One in seven construction workers suffers an on-the-job injury each year.

A recent New Jersey study showed how construction had the highest rate of work-related deaths of any industry in that state from 1983 to 1988. The highest death rates among the construction trades occurred with iron workers and roofers, the lowest with masons and general construction workers. The most common causes of death, the study found, were falls (48 percent) and electrocutions (13 percent).

Housing starts down in Bay Area

Housing starts in 12 Bay Area counties were down 38.4 percent during the first eight months of this year compared to the same period a year ago, according to the Building Industry Assn. of Northern California.

The slow down in residential construction activity, measured by building permit volume, is a result of the weakening economy, sluggish home sales, rising consumer interest rates and a general lack of consumer confidence to make major purchases, the association said. Marin, San Mateo and San Francisco counties were the hardest hit, while Santa Clara County felt the least effects of the slow down.

Parental leave still alive

With parental leave legislation stymied by President Bush's recent veto, a growing number of unions are winning unpaid leave for working parents through contract negotiations.

Among recently negotiated agreements that include family benefits is an agreement between Electrical Workers Local 965 and Wisconsin Power and Light Company in Madison, Wis. The three-year contract includes one-year of unpaid leave, with job projection, for parents of newborn or adopted children.

Family leave and care benefits were key elements of last year's contract settlement between the Communication Workers and IBEW and AT &T. This contract extended unpaid parental leave to one year, established a $5 million fund to develop community child and elder care centers and provided grants to aid parents who adopt children.

Drug testing verdict favors employee

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a California Supreme Court decision that determined that Southern Pacific Railroad acted illegally when it fired Barbara Luck, a San Francisco computer programmer, for refusing to submit a urine sample in 1985 as part of the company's random drug testing program.

The Supreme Court declined to review the lower court ruling because Luck was not working in a safety-related job for the railroad and could not be required to take the drug test. As a result, Luck's $485,000 suit against the company will stand.

Southern Pacific's main argument was that federal railway labor laws should apply even to employees such as Luck who are not covered by union contracts. In previous cases, the Supreme Court has upheld widespread mandatory drug testing in the transportation industry for safety reasons. Those rulings applied only to union employees.
HONORARY MEMBERS

As approved at the Executive Board Meeting on June 24, 1990, the following retirees have or more years of membership in the Local Union, and have been determined to be eligible for Honorary Membership effective July 1, 1990.

James Boggs 0649226
James Brock 0621344
Al Ross Brossard 0643973
Mike Charest 0674715
Frank Dodd 0171794
Hubert Dolly 0639500
Ralph Emmett 0621361
Clyde Gorman 0745279
Sam Haley 0969036
L. W. Haymond 0640664
Arley Keiller 0617553
Alfonso LaGrange 0796901
Charles Land 0689257
Donald Monroe 0457228
Vemon O’Hare 0501012
Eugene Oller 0655259
Harry Pre 0655500
Guy Petthel 0795740
Darrell Grimes of Winterhaven, Calif., 10/21/90; Arvil V. Bristow of Hanford, Calif., 10/20/90; Eugene Oller of Marysville, Calif., 10/19/90; Anthony Oliver of San Jose, Calif., 8/29/90; James L. Fisher of Sacramento, Calif., 10/20/90; W. G. Flores of Santa Clara, Calif., 10/19/90; Hubert Dolly of San Joaquin, Calif., 10/19/90; Edward Green of Modesto, Calif., 10/19/90; Rodney Sohn of California, 10/19/90; Vincent Simonetti of California, 10/19/90; Rodney Sohn of California, 10/19/90; William Williams of California, 10/19/90; * Effective October 1, 1990, as member has recently been determined to have been eligible in September 1990.

1991 RETRIEVE MEETINGS

EUREKA – January 8, 2 PM
Operating Engineers Bldg.
2506 Broadway
Eureka, CA

REDDING – January 9, 2 PM
Moor Lodge
320 Lake Blvd.
Redding, CA

MARYSVILLE – January 10, 2 PM
Veterans Memorial Bldg.
249 Sycamore
Griddley, CA

IGNACIO – January 10, 2 PM
Alvarado Inn
250 Entrada Dr.
Novato, CA

S.F./SAN MATEO – February 7, 10 AM
IAM Air Transport Employee
1511 Rollins Rd.
Burlingame, CA

FRESNO – February 14, 2 PM
Lambers Hall
5431 E. Hedges
Fresno, CA

SACRAMENTO – February 19, 10 AM
Lambers Hall
6545 Stockton Blvd.
Sacramento, CA

AUBURN – February 19, 2 PM
Auburn Rec. Center
123 Recreation Dr.
Auburn, CA

CONCORD – February 27, 10 AM
Concord Elk Lodge No.1994
3994 Willow Pass Rd.
Concord, CA

OAKLAND – February 28, 10 AM
Oakland Zoo - Snow Bldg.
9777 Golf Links Rd.
Oakland, CA

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Marjorie Backlund, Wife of Leslie Backlund 9/4/90; Aapha Dominguez, wife of Dennis Dominguez 9/26/90; Bryson Ramos, Son, Brittany Ramos, Daughter, and Brant, Son of Lorenzo Ramos 10/6/90; Joyce Wright of Norma Wright 10/20/90; Delores Zandofsky, Wife of Rick Zandofsky 9/27/90.

District Meetings

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

December

13th District 04: Fairfield
Holiday Inn
1350 Holiday Lane

18th District 10: Clearlake
Senior Citizens Center
14773 Lakeshore Drive

20th District 9: Freedom
Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall
1900 Freedom Blvd.

January 1991

9th District 4: Eureka
Engineers Building
2006 Broadway

17th District 17: Kauai
Wilcox Elementary School
3419 Hardy Street

9th District 17: Kona
Kona School
Kaikaleku

7th District 7: Redding
Engineers Building
100 Lake Blvd.

10th District 6: Marysville
Engineers Building
1010 "1" Street

22nd District 17: Maui
Wailuku Community Club
Lower Main St. Wailuku

23rd District 17: Hilo
Kapalioi School
9683 Kula Avenue

24th District 17: Honolulu
Kamehameha School
1240 Gulick Avenue

Departed Members

JUNE
Tim Hinds of Sallisum, Okla., 6/6/90;
Georgie W. Harris of Stockton, Calif., 6/10/90, John Mayfield of San Jose, Calif., 6/22/90; Jeorald Leake of Wailuku, Hawaii, 6/16/90; H. Grove of Sonora, Calif., 6/22/90; James L. Cavalieri of Foresthill, Calif., 8/28/90; William Talbott of Richmond, Calif., 9/19/90; L. Vincent Jr. of stockton, Calif., 9/16/90, George Walker of Pleasant Grove, Utah, 9/1/90; Robert W. McPherson of Stockton, Calif., 9/18/90; Harry L. Welcher of Rocklin, Calif., 9/7/90; Fairiel Wilson of

JULY
Edwin Burns of Newark, Calif., 7/22/90;

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

JUNE
Tim Hinds of Sallisum, Okla., 6/6/90;
Georgie W. Harris of Stockton, Calif., 6/10/90, John Mayfield of San Jose, Calif., 6/22/90; Jeorald Leake of Wailuku, Hawaii, 6/16/90; H. Grove of Sonora, Calif., 6/22/90; James L. Cavalieri of Foresthill, Calif., 8/28/90; William Talbott of Richmond, Calif., 9/19/90; L. Vincent Jr. of stockton, Calif., 9/16/90, George Walker of Pleasant Grove, Utah, 9/1/90; Robert W. McPherson of Stockton, Calif., 9/18/90; Harry L. Welcher of Rocklin, Calif., 9/7/90; Fairiel Wilson of

JULY
Edwin Burns of Newark, Calif., 7/22/90;
New grade setters rod adds color to cut and fill work

At a subdivision project near Hayward, Calif., Local 3 Operating Engineers are testing a new surveying device that makes grade setting easier, faster and more accurate.

The invention, called the Willie Rod, is an inverted surveyors’ prism pole modified to function as an 8-foot grade setters rod. At the bottom of the rod is a 3-foot telescoping inner section boot marked with 10th and 100th graduations. On the rod’s outer pole, positive graduations (fill) are painted blue and negative graduations (cut) are painted red, with the zero point in the middle. Standard hand levels and most laser sensors and detectors can be mounted on the rod.

The grade setter adjusts the inner section boot to whatever the design section grade calls for, then slides the hand level bracket either up into the blue area or down into the red area depending on the rod reading. Without having to make any calculations, the grade setter simply looks at what graduation the hand level bracket is lined up with to determine how much cut or fill is needed.

What places the Willie Rod in a class by itself are the painted blue and red areas, which allow the equipment operator to determine cut or fill from a distance of up to 100 feet, thus eliminating the need for the operator and the grade setter to use hand signals.

At the Rancho Palomares subdivision project near Hayward, Oliver de Silva Superintendent Quirt Kelly was so impressed with the Willie Rod he decided to purchase 12 poles and let his grade setters try them out.

“I’m real impressed with the Willie Rod,” said Grade Setter Karen Roberds. “I like it. It’s really handy. It beats the folding ruler any day. Because of the 100th graduations, it allows you to keep your grade closer on a slope.”

“I think the rod is pretty slick,” Grade Setter Paul Fordyce said. “It’s much more durable than a folding ruler. Your set-up time is less and it’s much more accurate.”

Because of the pole’s accuracy, city and county inspectors in towns such as Clayton and Concord in Contra Costa County have shown interest in the Willie Rod as a tool to verify work done by surveyors. All told, about 200 rods are in the field. By the end of next year, Seco expects nearly 3,000 to be sold worldwide.

“I think Lee really has come up with something special,” said Seco Marketing Director Mike Dahl. “It’s exceptional and has great potential. His design is simple and economical. We think we’ve really got a good product that will fill the needs of the construction industry.”

Dahl has proved his point by demonstrating the Willie Rod at trade shows in the United States and Europe. Contractors and surveyors have been impressed with how user friendly and inexpensive the rod is. Other grade setters rods with similar designs exhibited at these trade shows were more expensive and difficult to use, Dahl said.

Lee’s apprenticeship training at Local 3’s Rancho Murieta training center, where he now works as a grade setting instructor, and his more than 20 years of grade setting experience have contributed significantly to his ability to conceive innovative tools for the construction industry. The idea for the Willie Rod was conceived in 1975 while Lee was working as a grade checker for William G. McCullough. He painted some cut and fill marks on a story pole and played around with the idea for several years, until one day he saw surveyors using prism poles.

“All of sudden the whole Willie Rod concept came to me at that moment,” Lee said. “I figured if I turned the prism pole upside down and put graduations on the inner section and painted my cut and fill marks red and blue, I’d have something useful.”

With help from the Michael Clements Corp., which fabricated several pieces of the rod with aluminum tubing, Lee made a prototype. “I showed it to some grade setters and they thought the rod was a great idea,” Lee said. “Some grade setters wanted to buy the rod, but at that time the cost was too high.”

So Lee took his invention to Seco to see if the company was interested in producing and marketing the Willie Rod. Of the hundreds of inventions Seco considers each year, the Willie Rod stood out as the most promising.

“We took Lee’s design, refined it and put it into production,” Dahl said. “We took the rod to trade shows and talked to dealers. They were very interested. The rod is an effective tool for cut and fill work at a good price.”

With so much potential, the Willie Rod indeed could change the way grade setters do their jobs for years to come. And who knows what Lee and Seco will come up with in the future.

For more information on the Willie Rod, call 1-800-734-3363.