



Packing fill around the base of the pole are, from left: Casey Kelly and Marshall Free, shoveling dirt, and Donald Mathews running hydraulic tap.

All Day Electric's union crews put the wire underground

Bury it!

Jason Clause attaching new service to a house and making the weatherhead connections.



Story and photos by Eric Wolfe

Local 1245 members working for All Day Electric are helping PG&E bury 45 miles of overhead distribution lines in San Francisco.

Last month a crew consisting of Linemen Marshall Free, Donald Matthews, Casey Kelley and Apprentice Lineman Jason Clause were building the structures needed to bring a line underground on 23rd Avenue in the city's Sunset District.

The overhead-to-underground conversion, called "Rule 20" work after the CPUC rules that govern it, is part of a PG&E agreement with the City and County of San Francisco dating back to the late 1990s, with an expected completion date later this year.

Undergrounding isn't limited to San Francisco. Systemwide, PG&E allocates a portion of ratepayer money to various undergrounding projects.

The program is clearly popular in San Fran-



Casey Kelly uses a plumb line to make sure the new pole is level.



(RIGHT) Marshall Free guides a bucket of fill into position.



Marshall Free removing rigging after setting the pole.

Working the 23rd Avenue job are, from left, Marshall Free, Donald Matthews, Casey Kelley, Jason Clause. All are journeyman linemen, except Clause, who is a 5th step apprentice.



Casey Kelly picks up a bucket of fill to pack around the newly-set pole.

cisco. Citizens indicated in a recent survey that they'd like to see more of the city's wires put underground and would be willing to pay more on their electric bill to get it done.

One citizen found a more direct way to show his appreciation, bringing a plate of cookies to the Local 1245 members performing the work.



All Day Electric Safety Manager Patrick Wynkoop; All Day Electric General Foreman Bubba Avery; Canus Inspector Keith Darling at the PG&E Martin Service Center in San Francisco.



Jason Clause accepts a plate of cookies from a resident. People like linemen, that's all there is to it.



Local 1245 Senior Business Rep. Ron Cochran, right, sells another union hat.