PG&E asks Union to open talks on key issues

I
n an attempt to avoid a showdown with the IBEW Local 1245 in the political arena, the PG&E asked the Union recently to hold talks aimed at resolving key issues, including the long-standing dispute with the PG&E. The talks will cover the following areas:
1) The classifications, wage, and transmission work and the possible establishment of separate departments for each area of work.
2) Job security as it relates to underground, distribution, and transmission work and the possible establishment of separate departments for each area of work.
3) Safety concerns and work procedures, including the barehanding and rubber gloving of live lines above 4 KV.

In a letter of agreement signed with the Company, the Local Union has agreed to the talks. The letter notes that the talks will cover the following three areas:
1) The classifications, wage rates, job definitions and lines of progression of the Electric Transmission and Distribution Department.
2) Job security as it relates to underground, distribution, and transmission work and the possible establishment of separate departments for each area of work.
3) Safety concerns and work procedures, including the barehanding and rubber gloving of live lines above 4 KV.

Prior to the announcement of the talks, the barehanding/rubber gloving issue was headed for a showdown, with little control by either the Union or Company over the results. The Company had requested that the Cal/OSHA Standards Board change its High Voltage Electrical Safety Orders to allow barehand and rubber glove work on lines above 4 KV. The Union has always argued that such changes would be unsafe. To protect current work standards, the Union had asked state legislators to consider a bill which would have prevented the Standards Board from granting the PG&E request.

The letter notes that the talks will cover the following three areas:
1) The classifications, wage rates, job definitions and lines of progression of the Electric Transmission and Distribution Department.
2) Job security as it relates to underground, distribution, and transmission work and the possible establishment of separate departments for each area of work.
3) Safety concerns and work procedures, including the barehanding and rubber gloving of live lines above 4 KV.

PG&E are not successful, the Union intended to testify at Cal/OSHA public hearings against the PG&E request and the Company intended to lobby against the Union’s legislative action. The eventual outcome of this battle would have also been influenced by various political forces at work in Sacramento. Both parties realized that a return to two-party private discussions could allow greater input and control of the bargaining process.

The Union and the Company agreed to put their political efforts on the back burner pending the outcome of the talks. Legislative procedure allows the Union to suspend action on the proposed law pending the outcome of discussions with the Company, without sacrificing the legislative process. If the talks with PG&E are not successful, the

Phone workers on the line for health care

By Steve Diamond

The IBEW and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) led nearly 200,000 workers on the picket lines across the country this month to maintain decent wages and affordable health care for their members at several large telephone companies.

High profits accumulated by the so-called “Baby Bells,” as companies like Pacific Telesis are known since the breakup of AT&T, have forced the unions to ask for better wages, job security, and more control of the bargaining process.

Here are the results:

Baby Bell shareholders have earned $3.5 billion since 1984

Other Union Victories Encouraging

Earlier this year, without a strike, unions at AT&T itself forced the company to drop a proposal to add annual employee-paid deductibles. The Unions did agree to set up a “preferred provider” network. Deductibles apply for those employees who elect to go outside the network for health care. A similar compromise was reached after a 12 week strike by food workers in Seattle. There the United Food and Commercial Workers defeated a proposal to increase deductibles by $10 per hour from paychecks.

...for health care. Instead, the two sides agreed to set up a preferred provider network. The United Steelworkers, in negotiations for 60,000 members at steel, aluminum and can manufacturing companies, defeated deductibles and the proposed penalty for going outside the preferred provider network.

These unions succeeded because they have been able to convince management that the cost-shifting approach is a very short-term, balance-sheet strategy that does nothing to address the real factors responsible for rising health care costs.” Karen M. Ignani, health policy specialist at the AFI-CIO, told The New York Times.

As this Utility Reporter went to press, a tentative agreement was reached between the Communications Workers of America and Pacific Telesis. The settlement provides a

See PAGE FOUR
To the members of Local 1245

Your election committee herewith presents the following report, which is true and accurate accounting of the results of the Local Union's 1989 Election of Local Union Officers, Local Union Advisory Council Members, and International Convention Delegates.

Howard was clearly throughout the campaign as they ran unopposed in the election. Joining Howard on the Executive Board will be Jim McCauley as Vice President. Ron Blakemore was previously a member of the Executive Board representing the Central Area. Barbara Symons will continue as the Board's Recording Secretary, a position she has held since 1979.

A new Treasurer joins the Board this year Ed Mallory. Ed joined Local 1245 in 1966. He is a member of Unit #1112 in Bakersfield. He is employed by PG&E as an Electrical Technician. He has been a Shop Steward since 1970.

The Central Area will be represented on the Board by Ron Blakemore, who had served previously as Vice President. Ron is a Lineman for PG&E and has been a Local 1245 member since 1967.

Kathy Tindall, from Sierra Pacific Power, will return to her seat as Northern Area Executive Board representative. Over the years, Kathy has been active in many Union Women's activities. She joined Local 1245 in 1973.

Mike Davis was re-elected to his position as Southern Area Board Representative, a position he first took over in 1983. Mike has been a Local 1245 member since 1967 and is in Unit 1501 in San Jose.

Mike is a System Operator I (Relief) for PG&E. Andrew "Tube" Dudley rejoins the Board as Member-at-Large, a position he had held from 1978 to 1983. "Tube" is a journeyman lineman from Outside Line Construction in Southern California.

Advisory Council seats were also determined this year. The winners and their seats are as follows: Michael Brocchini (San Joaquin); Terry D. Jones (Coast Valleys); Jose M. Guzman (Pacific Line Operation); Richard Bidinest (San Jose City of Santa Clara); Willie Denninger (Alameda/C.C. Transit and East Bay Municipal); James Dorman (East Bay and Material Control); Landis Martilla (San Francisco and General Office); Grover Day (Stockton and City of Lodi); Frank R. Locati (Pacific Gas Transmission); Jimmy S. Russell (Humboldt); Russell Rylee (Shasta); Bob Vierra (Sierra Pacific Power Company); Warran E. Harris (De Sable); Stanley P. Justis (DRUM); A. Kausden (Colegate); Arthur Murray (Sacramento); Gary Hanson (Sacramento Municipal Utility District); Richard Perry (USBR Region 2); Randy Abbott (General Construction); Olivia Mercado (Clerical-Administrative); Jim Travis (Tree Trimmer Companies); Shirley Roberts (San Francisco VP and Comptroller's Office); E. Duane Bartlow (Irrigation Districts); Terry Linebarger (CATV Operating Companies); James Findlay (North Bay); Richard Hafner (Government Coordinating Council); Morris Wimmerly (Outside Construction); Timothy Watts (Citizens Utilities).

The results were tabulated and presented by the Local Union Election Committee: Jack Prosser, Judge of the Election; Arturo Garza, Assistant Judge; and the following Union Members who served as Tellers: Gary Beachy, Daniel R. Dennis, Patrick C. Gates, Christine Habeker, Robert McCormick, Betty Newbury, Darryl Norris, Veronica Parker, Norma Rickes, Craig Spalding, and Gary Surfus.
ELECTION RESULTS
CONTINUED

EAST BAY AND MATERIAL CONTROL
*James A. Dorman 312
Darrell Stving 213
SAN FRANCISCO AND GENERAL OFFICE
*Landie Marttila 230
STOCKTON AND CITY OF LODI
*Grover Day 182
PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION
Paul Hathaway 6
*Frank R. Locati 30
HUMBOLDT
Clark E. Fleming 24
Robert Harmer 6
*Jimmy S. Russell 25
SHASTA
Harvey Iness 27
*Russell Rylee 56
John Trunnell 55
SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY
*Bob Vieira 207
DE SABLA
*Warren "Skip" Harris 78
DRUM
*Stanley P. Justis 47
Lawrence Layton 32
COLGATE
*Al "Knute" Knudsen 59
SACRAMENTO
*Arthur Murray 114
SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
William Demerritt 83
*Gary Hanson 84
U.S.B.R. - REGION 2
*Richard C. Perry 32
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
*Randy Abbott 374
Dennis Panoo 111
CLERICAL-AT-LARGE
George Allan 91
Thelma Dixon 74
Mary Catherine "Cathy" Barber 121
*Olivia Mercado 154
De Anne Swinney 40
Franklin Vaughn 27
TREE TRIMMER COMPANIES
*Jim Travis 166
SACRAMENTO - VP & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE
*Shirley Roberts 135
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS
*E. Duane Bartlow 82
CATV - OPERATING COMPANIES
*Terry Linebarger 39
NORTH BAY
*James Findley 114
Thomas Jacobsen 90
Roy Runnings 70
John Scott II 28
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT
No Nominations
MANUFACTURING
No Nominations
GOVERNMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL
*Richard M. Hafner 12
OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION
Norman Stout 100
*Morris "Curly" Wimberly 330
CITIZENS UTILITIES
Vivian "Viv" Simons 38
*Timothy Watts 44

POINTE OF VIEW

Union Industries Show opens convention center

By Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

The AFL-CIO sponsored Union Industries Show was the first major event held in the brand new convention center in San Jose, California.

The Union Industries Show is an exhibition presented by local unions and internationals of the work that the members produce or services that they provide.

The IBEW was well represented with both the International and many of the IBEW Local Unions from the Bay Area present. Local 1245 had several exhibits that demonstrated the various classifications of work. The hazards of natural gas and electricity, as well as the need for safety and awareness were demonstrated. A pole climbing and transformer change out were demonstrated on poles we erected inside the convention center. A computer terminal on site was connected to the PG&E mainframe. This link-up allowed our clerical members to retrieve a member's record.

The show ran for four days, with over 250,000 members of the public viewing the exhibits and demonstrations. Volunteer members of Local 1245 operated and demonstrated their skills and knowledge in the various Local 1245 exhibits. Our exhibits were among the most popular in the show, and our members had fun in the demonstration.

PG&E is to be commended for their assistance in making the exhibits possible, and for that I thank them.

I also would like to express my appreciation and thanks to our members who volunteered to staff the exhibit. Their contribution made our exhibits a great success.
percent wage increase over the next three years. If accepted by the membership in a vote scheduled later this month, the contract would set up a preferred provider health care program, with penalties in place for use of medical services not on the employer-approved list.

Baby Bell Proposal Called "Revolting"

CWA spokesperson Bill Bickers called the health care cutback proposal made by Bell.

IBEW Business Manager Speaks Out

Myles Calvey, IBEW Local 2222 Business Manager in Boston, noted that this opened the door to forcing employees to pay for all health care. "If we accept anything as far as cost-cutting, we will never know whether people are getting the right coverage for the cost they are paying."

"Health care is the largest single company expense and the most significant factor in affecting our ability to offer good jobs to employees," Calvey said. "If we put new spending on the company's back, the company will have to raise prices to maintain a competitive position."

IBEW and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) led nearly 200,000 workers onto picket lines across the country.

The proposal contends that basic health care is a right of every citizen and notes that "corporate control over medical care has also failed to contain costs." It concludes with a call to end "less money on jails and battleships and more money on health care for everyone."

Union Monitoring Key to Quality Control

Short of a national system of health care, the labor movement could be greater involvement in quality control of health care. Some health care experts note that the emphasis on "cost" controls is misguided. Such an approach can lead to unnecessary cutbacks in care.

At the same time, the traditional union demand for complete freedom of choice for care can also create problems. "The freedom to choose any doctor or hospital is only a guarantee of access to poor quality care," according to Dr. Peter Boland, a nationally-recognized health care consultant and a former chairman of the National Medical Care Commission.

The key, Dr. Boland told the Utility Reporter, is to monitor health care for quality, not cost. In the long run this will improve care and cut costs. Dr. Boland's firm recently conducted a major study of health care cost containment efforts and found that labor unions make as many mistakes as management in cutting back on the wrong things. Unless rigorous performance standards are set which unions can monitor, union labor will never know whether care is good or bad," Dr. Boland said.
Union Backing Needed

U.S. Senate Committee OK's Health Care Bill

Union members are being asked to join a national lobbying effort to back a bill recently approved by a U.S. Senate Committee which would require all employers to provide a basic minimum health care plan for full-time and part-time workers and their families.

Among industrialized nations, only the United States and South Africa have no program of national health care. In 1986, 37 million Americans, 16 percent of the population, were without any health insurance protection. Approximately three-quarters of those with no insurance were workers and their families — one-third were children.

A number of factors have contributed to the growth in the health care gap. Because of arbitrary rules, Medicaid, the program designed to meet the needs of the economically underprivileged, covers only 40% of people living below the federal poverty line. Skyrocketing health care costs have caused many businesses to terminate or gut their medical benefits. In addition, the increase in part-time work, contracting out, underemployment and union-busting has meant that many workers have lost access to employer-provided benefits.

If the new Senate bill, S. 768 (or H.R. 1845 in the House of Representatives), passes, it would assist small businesses in setting up health plans through a system of tax deductions and by allowing them to pool their resources for group purchasing of insurance. The bill would also expand the Medicaid system to allow those in poverty and the unemployed to qualify for health care benefits.

Please contact your Senator and ask him to support this bill. The House version is still pending in Committees and your Representative should also be informed of your support for the bill. When you contact your Congressperson's office, remember to identify yourself as a member of IBEW Local 1245.

Seniors resolve

For a National Health Care Service

WHEREAS: The inequity of the present system has been dramatized by new studies showing that millions of children are among those without health care, that the United States has the highest infant mortality rate of all Western States.

WHEREAS: One of the chief obstacles to adequate health care in this country is the seemingly endless and time-consuming effort that is entailed in processing one's eligibility. Corporate control over medical care has also failed to contain costs.

WHEREAS: A National Health Program could be modeled after many Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's). In California the Kaiser-Permanente presents an excellent model. Probably the best national health care plan now in operation is the Canadian System which could serve as a guideline.

WHEREAS: This approach, if properly implemented, could well fulfill our health care requirements, including long-term care for all our citizens.

WHEREAS: The United States is the only industrialized democracy without a universal health care system offered on the same basis as our public schools, fire protection and national defense.

THEREFORE be it resolved: That we demand an end to excessive profit-making in the field of health care whether this occurs in hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, nursing homes, trauma centers and any health care providers.

AND be it further resolved: That greater emphasis be placed on personal health care for every citizen regardless of ability to pay, with emphasis on preventative medicine. May less money be spent on jails and battleships and more money on health care for everyone.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Hastings, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Congress of California Seniors Region III. The above resolution was passed at the Fifth Biennial Convention of the Congress of California Seniors, held August 4-5, 1989.
Pole Climbing by IBEW Local 1245 Linemen was without a doubt the Show's highpoint.

Thousands flock to Utility Show.

IBEW Clerical Workers from PG&E demonstrate computer data base.

"Hot-sticking" was demonstrated by Local 1245 Linemen.

The IBEW Crew who put business back in the saddle.
The Show was fun...flock to Union Industries Business.

Manager Jack McNally gets back in the saddle.

Some two hundred and fifty thousand people made their way to the San Jose Convention Center earlier this summer to view the annual Union Industries Show. Each year, the trade union movement organizes the Show to demonstrate the important contribution that Union jobs and skills make to our nation's economy.

Some 300 exhibitors, including Local 1245, set up displays which explained their work to the public. Local 1245's exhibit included a pole-climbing demonstration, a variety of demonstrations on safe use of gas and electric power around the home and community, and a demonstration of the computer skills that go into servicing the public users of utility products.

In addition to utility workers, there were cake decorators, sheetmetal workers, glass blowers, machinists, teamsters, carpenters, hairstylists, and autoworkers. Besides Local 1245, IBEW Locals 202, 332, 595, 617, 1969 and 2131 were present with displays.

Business Manager Jack McNally gets back in the saddle.

The IBEW Crew who put our exhibit together.

Glass-blowing, a dying trade is a big union skill attraction.
Some two hundred and fifty thousand people made their way to the San Jose Convention Center earlier this summer to view the annual Union Industries Show. Each year, the trade union movement organizes the Show to demonstrate the important contribution that Union jobs and skills make to our nation’s economy.

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Below we list all of the IBEW Local 1245 Members who helped make our Union’s presentation at the show a success.

Mike Davis - Edenvale Electric
Ben Dreese - Edenvale Electric T&D
Gerald Roza - Cinnabar Gas Service
Rich Bellino - Edenvale Gas Service
Robin Morrison - Cupertino Gas Service
Pete Mandon - Edenvale Electric Service
Steve Moore - Cinnabar Electric T&D
Darrel Hashimoto - Cinnabar Electric T&D
Rich Bohn - Cinnabar Electric T&D
Robert M. McLean - Cinnabar Electric T&D
Magdalena (Helen) Munoz - San Jose Customer Service
Vida Anderson - San Jose Customer Service
Karen Russell - Cupertino Customer Service
Sandra Weeks - Cupertino Clerical Operations
Ron Weeks - Cupertino Electric T&D
Armando Guerrero - Cinnabar Electric T&D
Ralph Guerrero - Cupertino Electric T&D
Dave Biggs - Edenvale Electric T&D
George Pfeiffer - Edenvale Electric T&D
Ishmael Hernandez - Edenvale Electric T&D
Nancy Landeros - San Jose Computer Operations
Dave Mackley - Cinnabar Clerical Operations
Jamie Silva - Edenvale Electric T&D
Eugene Guerrero - City of Santa Clara Electric
Jerome Retterath - City of Santa Clara Electric
Peter Welsh - City of Santa Clara Electric
Manny Hernandez - PG&E Physical
Frank O'Classen - PG&E Physical
Reynold Fitzpatrick - PG&E Physical
Ron Blakemore - PG&E Physical
John Meyer - General Construction
Mike Sanders - General Construction
Dan Fuller - General Construction
Bruce Boykin - General Construction
Don Wamsley - General Construction

Jack McNally - Business Manager
Gary Hughes - Business Representative
Kua Patten - Printer and Designer

Glass-blowing, a dying trade union skill, was a big attraction.

The Show was fun for children and adults.
RETIREES

Retirees hear talk on Seniors' Counselling

By Gene Hastings

The Federation of Retired Union Members of the Contra Costa, Napa and Solano counties (FORUM) met last month. Along with delegates from several other unions, the Retirees Club of Local 1245 also attended the regular meeting.

Our guest speaker was Mary Ann Osborne, a Counselor for Contra Costa County. She gave a presentation about HICAP, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. HICAP is funded by the California Department of Aging and all California Counties.

The County HICAP Counselor has several job duties. HICAP Services are available to all persons 60 and over, and anyone else concerned about a senior. All of the services are free and very professional.

Do you need help? Do you have questions about Medicare Benefits, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance, Bills and Claims, Medi-Cal Information or Legal Assistance? Any questions about Medicare Part A? About Medicare Part B? Both parts of Medicare have deductibles and co-insurance costs that you must pay out-of-pocket. For further information call the CATASTROPHIC HOTLINE: 1-800-888-1998. Find out what it means to you if your doctor does not accept a medicare assignment. Check your government phone directory for the number of the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. It is listed under the Department of Aging in the White Pages.

OTHER NEWS FOR RETIREES. Beginning in January, 1989, all those eligible for Medicare will pay a supplemental premium, or surcharge, based on Income Tax liability (to be paid in 1990 on 1989 income.) For further information contact your Local IRS office.

AFL-CIO LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

AFL-CIO-supported Bill would help working families

New House Version of Child Care Law on Floor in September

The Early Childhood Education and Development Act of 1989, House Resolution #3, is expected to reach the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. in September after Congress returns from its August recess, according to its Capitol Hill sponsors.

The AFL-CIO believes that it is vital that the House adopt this legislation. As reported by the House Education and Labor Committee, H.R. 3 authorizes $1.75 billion to provide child care services through 1) an expansion of the Head Start program; 2) establishment of early childhood education programs and before and after school programs; and 3) by supplying services for children up to age 13 through community-based and other providers.

The need for this type of comprehensive child care legislation has become obvious to many lawmakers. There are simply not enough of such services available to meet the needs of working parents. Over the last 25 years the number of women in the work force has more than doubled. More than half of all married mothers with infants under the age of one are now in the work place, and two-thirds of working women are either the sole support of their families or have husbands whose annual income is less than $15,000.

Unless Congressional action is taken quickly, the problem will only get worse. Business experts say that additional workers both men and women must join the work force if America is to remain economically competitive. By the mid-1990s it is expected that two-thirds of women with preschool children and three-quarters with school age children will be employed.

To help alleviate the crisis in child care, the AFL-CIO has been supporting federal legislation to improve the quantity, quality and affordability of care. H.R. 3 is a comprehensive child care bill which will assist communities to expand the supply and improve the quality of care, as well as help working parents finance their child care needs.

The Bush Administration, however, is opposing this bill and it is expected that attempts will be made to weaken the legislation when it reaches the House floor. Your congressional representative needs to be contacted and urged to support H.R. 3 as it was reported out of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Below is a list of the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives from California and their phone numbers. Make sure to identify yourself as a member of Local 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
Local 1245 watchdogs Rancho Seco transition

The voters of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District finally voted to shutter the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant in early June. The result is the loss of the jobs of 195 IBEW Local 1245 members who work at the plant.

To ensure that the transition process is a smooth and fair one, Local 1245 is keeping close tabs on the shutdown process at "the Ranch" (as the plant is popularly known), according to IBEW Local 1245 Business Representative Gary Mai. Mai has represented SMUD workers for many years. Both Mai and Local 1245 shop stewards remain active at the Plant.

"In this difficult time for the Rancho Seco employees of SMUD, Local 1245 wants to let it be known that we will work to see that all employees are given all the benefits they are entitled to and as much help as possible in finding new and secure employment," IBEW Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally said.

Not all of the IBEW Local 1245 members will leave against their will. 166 members took advantage of a Voluntary Separation Plan set up by the District. This Plan granted these union members 12 weeks pay plus one week for every year of service with the District up to a maximum of 26 weeks' pay.

The District will also reimburse employees for medical insurance payments up to six months, depending on seniority.

Twenty-five additional IBEW members will eventually be laid off involuntarily. A plant closings law mandates that they receive sixty days notice prior to their lay-off. The district has stated that they will pay the employees a lump sum of 60 days pay on the date of notice, rather than keep the employees on the Plant site with nothing to do.

The number of jobs actually lost was kept to a minimum by eliminating unfilled positions first, Mai said. In addition to the sixty days notice, the District has set up a Job Center to assist employees in finding other work. A number of employees have already found employment with other nuclear power plants.

"SMUD is making a real good effort to help employees find other work," Mai said. But at the same time, Mai feels the District may be moving too quickly in letting people leave the Plant. "They are already having a hard time in preparing for the defueling process and may have to contract out work because of poor planning," Mai suggested.

Mai attributes the vote for a shutdown, which reversed a November 1988 decision, to the public's lack of confidence in the SMUD Board of Directors and Rancho Seco managers. He also feels that the anti-nuclear power group active in the campaign used somewhat misleading economic data to sway voters.

"They paid more attention to economic factors, than safety factors," Mai said. Traditionally, such groups have raised concerns about the potential environmental danger of nuclear power.

There remains the possibility that SMUD may still sell the plant to a private group.

Cal/OSHA YES!

October Cal/OSHA conference set

Now that the voters of California have voted to override Governor Deukmejian and reinstate California's nationally recognized Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA/SMUD), a statewide conference is set for the weekend of October 6 and 7 to discuss a new agenda for the agency.

The conference will be sponsored by U.C. Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Programs (LoHHP) and Worksafe, a health and safety coalition which assisted in the labor campaign to restore Cal/OSHA. Local 1245 is an affiliate member of Worksafe.

A variety of speakers from labor, environmental, political and academic groups have been invited to address the two-day meeting. The session will begin on Friday, October 6, at 8:30 AM and run until 5:00 PM. The meeting will reopen the next day, Saturday, October 7, at 8:00 AM and run until 3:00 PM. The registration fee for both days is $30.00; and $7.00 for Saturday only.

Labor Day 1989 honors the Union Label

This year the AFL-CIO has declared that the week following Labor Day weekend will be declared Union Label Week in honor of the quality and hard work that American trade unionists put into every product and service they produce.

The first Labor Day was September 5, 1882, when 10,000 union men and women marched in New York in celebration of the significant gains they had made in the workplace. Labor Day was officially proclaimed a holiday in 1894 and is today celebrated by all Americans.

Labor Day is a day of reflection: we should not lose sight of the achievements organized labor has won for all of us. Through its continuous and tireless efforts, the labor movement has won the 40-hour work week, health and welfare benefits, paid vacations, child labor laws, social security, minimum wage, occupational health and safety, minimum wage, occupational safety and health laws and other social and economic reforms.

Labor Union Week, September 4 through 9, is a week for everyone to make a commitment and a concentrated effort to look for the union label, shop and service that can be made.

A special mention should be made this Labor Day to those of our Sisters and Brothers who are on strike: against the Pittston Coal Company, Eastern Airlines, and various telephone companies. Their battle is our battle.

UNION LABEL WEEK SEPTEMBER 4-9, 1989

UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES DEPARTMENT

July 1989 UTILITY REPORTER 9
**PIN AWARDS**

**COLGATE**
April 21, 1989
The Refuge
Yuba City, CA
20 Years: Daniel Cervantes, Gary Davidson, Patricia Huntington, Richard Meakin, Barbara Morrow, David Patrick, Herman Osby, Howard Wil- lis, Hershel Yates.
25 Years: J.S. Lasky, Robert Olson.
30 Years: Jerry Fitzgerald, Joseph Termine.
35 Years: T.L. Hammons, W.L. Taylor.
40 Years: A.W. Wilson.

**NEVADA**
April 29, 1989
Airport Plaza Hotel
Reno, NV
30 Years: Ralph Manfredi.
35 Years: C.R. Bridges Jr., D.L. Molin, Elmer Calsbeek.

**BAKERSFIELD**
May 13, 1989
Mario’s Basque Restaurant
Bakersfield, CA
30 Years: John Buford, John Burnett, Bob Gordon, W.I. Horton, Charles Renfro, Silas Saner, EF. Tate.
35 Years: Ruben Arredondo, E.T. Barrios, G.L. Hicks, L.M. Riggenberg, F. Ruiz, D.G. Sampson.

**COAST VALLEYS**
April 29, 1989
Elks Lodge
Salinas, CA
40 Years: J.C. Mello.

**COAST VALLEYS**
May 1989
NEVADA
April 29, 1989
San Francisco/General Office
San Francisco, CA
30 Years: John Buford, John Burnett, Bob Gordon, W.I. Horton, Charles Renfro, Silas Saner, EF. Tate.
35 Years: Ruben Arredondo, E.T. Barrios, G.L. Hicks, L.M. Riggenberg, F. Ruiz, D.G. Sampson.
Chinese workers carry on after massacre

T he whole world was shocked at the bloody massacre of students at Tiananmen Square in Beijing last June. The peaceful demonstrations for democracy were crushed by the ruling Communist Party in a manner which will be remembered for decades. Understandably, much of the world's attention was on the student leaders, young and inexperienced, but committed to fighting for freedom for all of China.

But just as important to the movement for democracy in China was the role of working people. It was workers who responded by the millions when the students asked for support for their demands.

Several general strikes were organized by workers across China during May. Especially active were the workers of Beijing, the nation's capital, and Shanghai, China's most heavily industrialized city, which has a long history of trade union activity.

In the crackdown which has followed the Tiananmen massacre, workers have been the innocent victims of the Communists' wrath. Of the dozen individuals executed so far by the regime, nearly all have been workers, victims of sham trials, guilty only of having been in the wrong place at the wrong time. Thousands more have been arrested, are in hiding or have fled the country.

But the brutality of the Chinese government did not stop these workers from moving beyond simple protest and setting up their own independent and democratic trade unions. Right alongside the students on the Beijing square, workers established the Workers' Autonomous Union (WAU), a trade union which promised to work on behalf of the workers, not the Communist state. Hundreds of Beijing workers signed up right away.

Since the crackdown, the WAU has been forced underground. But in an act of tremendous courage, a representative of the WAU approached the New York Times correspondent in Beijing and asked her to tell the rest of the world that the workers' movement for democracy was still alive.

Ms. WuDunn of the Times, noted in her report that "only when the sun goes down" do these workers "dare to congregate, and even then they speak in hushed voices as they discuss their plans to develop an underground movement for greater democracy."

"They meet secretly," Ms. WuDunn wrote from Beijing, "in considerable danger, and scribble their appeals for change on cracker, cheap pieces of paper and wait until twilight before they furiously paste up the messages on lampposts and signboards. They almost never say the name of their organization, the Workers' Autonomous Union, in public."

"You don't understand what it's like to live here in China," the WAU spokesperson said. "Why do we keep pushing for democracy, even when we risk arrests? We are furious and frustrated. The Communist Party and the Government is so corrupt, and yet it controls all the money and there's hardly anything left for the workers."

"We are still continuing our fight for democracy," the WAU member continued. "There is no democracy in China. We have so little choice in our lives here. The Government and the Party decide where we work, where we live, how many children we can have and when."

The WAU members have continued their activities where they debate ways to spread their message. "Each of them has been writing essays on democracy," according to Ms. WuDunn, "and posting them in alleyways, residential lanes and occasionally on major streets throughout Beijing."

One ray of hope has begun to lift the WAU's spirits. The crackdown, while severe, has not been as heavy as the group expected. The regime may not feel confident enough to institute a widespread crackdown. "I went to Tiananmen Square many times," the WAU spokesperson told the Times. "I gave many speeches and I must have been filmed many times, but they haven't arrested me, have they?"

"Many people are afraid to come out, but we know they support us," the worker said.

PG&E asks Union to open talks on key issues

from PAGE TWELVE

visors to push lineman to work at speeds that are unsafe.

NEW STUDIES RAISE CANCER CONCERN

Concern also exists about the phenomenon of electromagnetic fields. A growing body of research has begun to focus attention on the impact of these fields on public health.

One study in the Denver, Colorado, area found that "children who have lived in homes near high-current electrical wires have developed cancer at twice the rate seen in children living in homes near low-current wiring."

The authors of that study also concluded that "upon analyzing a 1950 United States Public Health Service report correlating cause of death with occupation in men between the ages of twenty and sixty-five, they had found that workers who were frequently exposed to alternating-current magnetic fields among those workers were power station operators, telephone linemen, power linemen, subway and elevated railway motormen, electricians, and welders had developed cancer at a significantly higher rate than the population as a whole."

(These quotes and those below are drawn from a series of articles which recently appeared in The New Yorker magazine, entitled "The Hazards of Electromagnetic Fields" by Paul Brodeur, dated June 12, 19 and 26, 1989.)

A second study by public health scientists at the University of North Carolina and the University of Colorado confirmed the earlier Denver study concluding that "prolonged exposure to low-level magnetic fields may increase the risk of developing cancer in children." This study also found that only the EMF from outside the home affected these children. NOT household wiring or appliances.

The increased cancer risk from baranching and rubber-gloving remains unknown.

A full discussion and review of these and other issues will be at the heart of the talks with PG&E in coming months. The Local Union is developing specific guidelines for its approach to these discussions. The membership will be consulted on these procedures as they are being developed. The Utility Reporter and shop steward's newsletters will carry full details of the talks as they proceed.
Three Davey Tree North Bay employees and a friend were backpacking in the Snow Mountain Wilderness on Saturday, June 10, 1989. Shortly before noon the group stopped to swim in a pool of the Eel River. Glenn Palmer, Davey Tree Foreman, and Unit Recorder of the Local 1245 Davey Napa Unit #4419, dove into a shallow area of the river and severely injured himself. After his friends pulled him from the water, Glenn went into cardiac arrest. Casey Roland, Davey Tree Foreman, Local 1245 Shop Steward and past Recorder for the Davey Santa Rosa Unit #4417, immediately started administration of CPR.

Ivan Dobshinsky, Davey Tree apprentice climber went for help. Ivan ran almost 8 miles through some of the roughest wilderness terrain in Northern California to reach Lake Pillsbury and contact authorities. The California Department of Forestry responded with a rescue helicopter. The skill and courage of the copilot in maneuvering into the accident site is to be commended. Even more heroic, in this writer's opinion, is the courage and determination of Casey Roland. While waiting for help, Casey maintained Glenn's breathing and heart rate through two and a half hours of administering CPR in grueling heat and 5 separate cardiac arrests. He also had to instruct his assistant Robert Perry, on the spot, in CPR technique.

Glenn was airlifted to the Ukiah Adventist Trauma Center. He survived several days on life support, long enough for precious final family contact, before passing on Thursday, June 15, 1989.

IBEW Local Union 1245 applauds the efforts of Brothers Roland and Dobshinsky. We deeply mourn the passing of our member and friend Glenn Palmer. We wish also to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Glenn's surviving family.