

Pure Water in the Desert

The population of Las Vegas increases by 7,000 every month, and an \$800 million hotel-casino that opened in September was the fifth new one just since Labor Day 1998. All that in a desert—so how do you keep Las Vegas supplied with drinking water?

IBEW members of Local 357 and a process called ozone oxidation are part of the answer. Water purification by this method eliminates some of the aftereffects of chlorination and is heralded as the process of the future. It involves artificially creating the gas ozone, produced in nature by lightning strikes, by introducing high voltage electricity into a closed chamber filled with high purity oxygen. Once created the ozone has to be used immediately because it is an unstable gas.

The ozone water treatment facility where 15 Local 357 members are working is scheduled for completion in October 2001. It will be the largest in North America and will expand the capacity of the existing Alfred Smith Water Treatment Plant to 600 million gallons a day.

The plant is on the southwest corner of Lake Mead, 25 miles from Las Vegas and four miles from the famed Hoover Dam. Like the dam, the water treatment plant is toured by thousands of visitors each year.

Charles Harvey, Local 357 Press Secretary, reports that the job “will enable Local 357 members to showcase their expertise in heavy industrial wiring. Some 50,000 feet of medium voltage cable will be installed along with miles of fiber optics and communications duct banks.”

December 1999 will bring one of the most notable aspects of the construction sequence, he says, an attempt to “hot tap” the existing pipeline, which is 15 feet in diameter. It will reportedly be the largest hot tap ever attempted.

A SHOW OF

BROTHERHOOD

Some 1,000 members of Local 11, Los Angeles, California, showed up at the September meeting to witness the swearing in of 250 new members. When Local 11 President Ted Clinton asked the routine question about anyone wishing to stand behind and vouch for a new member, the whole audience stood and swarmed around the inductees. Such a spontaneous display of pride, solidarity and brotherhood serves as a reminder of why the IBEW remains such a valued part of our lives. ■

An overview of the Alfred Smith Water Treatment Plant project in Nevada.





Brother Dennis Slother of IBEW Local 673 shows his Harley to a child at one of the charitable events sponsored by the Louie Run Foundation in Ohio.



Charitable Thunder

Some motorcyclists ride for the sheer thrill of it, but some manage to support a good cause in the process. One of these is Dennis Slother, an 18-year member of IBEW Local 673, Painesville, Ohio.

Brother Slother is a founding member of the Louie Run Foundation, a group of motorcyclists who raise money for local charities. Now in its 16th year, the event is a massive annual gathering of motorcyclists on the first weekend in May.

Brother Slother works year round to organize the event, which charges admission and sells a variety of products, with the proceeds going to various worthy causes. Last year, the Louie Run Foundation donated more than \$30,000 to several local charities, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International, the Lake County Society for Rehabilitation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Mentor Rotary Foundation Bone Marrow Registry and many others. ❏

'Jobs With Justice' Comics

"The Big Fix," the second in a series of comics published by Jobs With Justice, tells a story "about the barriers workers face when they fight for a voice in the workplace, and about what it takes to win." Jobs With Justice is a national coalition of community, labor, religious and student organizations fighting for workers' rights and economic justice. It has 35 local coalitions across the nation. The comic (from which the above panel is taken) will be released nationally and is designed as a "tool to educate union members, religious leaders, and elected officials" about those hurdles.

In four full-color, tabloid-sized pages, "The Big Fix" follows the plight of Rocky Gonzalez, a former middleweight fighter, who is learning the perils of organizing a union at his workplace. This episode witnesses "Rocky's path from being fired for union activity, to participating in a Jobs with Justice Workers' Rights Board hearing, and finally to achieving victory."

To order the comic, contact Simon Greer (202) 434-1106. Information is also available on the Jobs with Justice website at www.jwj.org. ❏

CORRECTION

In the article, "Veteran's Day, A Time of Honor," in the November 1999 *Journal*, it was mistakenly stated that the IBEW's membership at Bell Atlantic includes the ten local unions of System Council T-6. Other IBEW locals representing Bell Atlantic workers are Local 827, East Windsor, New Jersey; Local 1944, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Local 2213, Washington Mills, New York.

