

Local 11 POWERS LA's Staples Center

When the lights were turned on last fall at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, the members of IBEW Local 11 had every reason to pat each other on the back. They worked around the clock over an 18-month period to ensure that the sports and entertainment complex would open in time for a National Hockey League (NHL) game between the Los Angeles Kings and the Boston Bruins. While the Kings and Bruins skated to a 2-2 tie, the bright lights of Staples Center illustrated the likely high-tech nature of future sports and entertainment complexes and the electricians who will power them.

Rosendin Electric, the electrical contractor, and Local 11 were tasked with a project that required 130 electricians working two 12-hour shifts to install and wire electrical, fire life safety, and security systems for the 901,642 square-foot facility. The facility features 11,000 light fixtures for general lighting, sports lighting, theatrical illumination, outdoor site and off-site illumination. To

meet those electrical power requirements, electricians installed 150,000 feet of conduit in slab, 192,000 feet of feeder conduit, 240 branch panels, 96 lighting control panels and 42 transformers. More than 37,000 feet of microphone cable criss-crosses the facility. The work also involved installing a five kilovolt service feeding through five unit substations and backed up by two 1,500 kilo-

watt generator sets. A house power distribution was installed to power the broadcasters' portable systems during sports events.

Staples Center features a host of high-tech accessories. Some 1,200 television cameras are positioned throughout the facility along with an eight-sided center display/video scoreboard. A \$1.5 million sound system with 675 separate speakers is situated just outside of the seating area. The audio-visual component is designed to capture the sights and sounds inside the facility, against the backdrop of \$2 million worth of specialty lighting. Features also include 124,500 watts of audio amplification, 34 fixed-broadcast camera positions, 79 media patch panels and 148,000 feet of fiber optic cable. Fourteen miles of telephone/data cable and 3,800,000 feet of broadcast production cable were also figured into the construction.

Staples Center has a capacity of 20,000 for basketball games (including



178 private suites) and roughly 19,000 for hockey games and arena football.

In order to meet the tight opening deadline, principal contractor PCL Construction Services Inc., of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, had many of the structural parts precast at its A.T. Curd Structures precasting facility in Rialto, California, and transported 50 miles to the construction site.

Staples Center reportedly is the only facility in the nation to house four professional sports teams. It is home to the Lakers and Clippers of the National Basketball Association (NBA), the Kings of the National Hockey League (NHL) and the Avengers of the Arena Football League (AFL). The 42nd Grammy Awards were held there in February, and the Democratic Party will hold its 2000 National Convention there from August 14 to 17. Staples Center will also be the site for the 2002 U.S. Figure Skating Championships one month before the debut of the Winter Olympics. ■



Local 11 electricians worked around the clock so Staples Center could open on time last fall.

Local Union 340 Members Take Brotherhood to Another Level

Brother Keith Kirkpatrick of Local Union 1003, Nelson, B.C., Canada, learned the true meaning of brotherhood during a nearly tragic turn of events in northern California.



Local 340 members D'elman Clark (left) and Frank Albert (right) showed the true meaning of brotherhood when they recently assisted an injured member.

During a road trip from Renton, Washington, to San Jose/San Mateo, California, Brother Kirkpatrick was knocked unconscious when he ran his car off the road. He barely recalls waking up in the trauma unit of the University of California Medical Center at Sacramento with a broken nose and a host of medical personnel working feverishly to repair his injuries. As he recovered in the hospital, Brother Kirkpatrick realized that aside from his pants, shorts, and socks, he had nothing. He was missing his wallet and other clothing items. He was also alone in another country with no idea what to do next.

He eventually contacted his wife in Renton who in turn contacted the pastor of the Life Lutheran Church which the Kirkpatricks had been attending during their Renton stay. Brother Kirkpatrick also contacted Local Union 340 in Sacramento, which dispatched Brother D'elman Clarke with clothes, money, and a lot of hope that the situation would have a happy ending. Brother Clarke helped Brother Kirkpatrick retrieve some personal items from the wreck and then met with Brother Frank Albert of Local Union 340, who took Brother Kirkpatrick to his home to await a midnight train to Seattle and then to Renton. Life Lutheran also picked up all expenses for Brother Kirkpatrick's hospital stay.

For Brothers D'elman Clark and Frank Albert, both organizer-business representatives, it was another day in the IBEW. For Brother Kirkpatrick and his family, it was a time which he will long remember as proof that the brotherhood truly knows no borders. ■