



Nearly a Century of Service Bids Adieu to the City as Two Veterans Retire, Leave Legacy

■ Daniel Saenz, Jim Heggem retire after nearly a combined century of demonstrating what civil service is all about.

It's often hard to imagine, much less see, what almost an entire century of hard work and dedication look like.

But Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Los Angeles

Aqueduct Filtration Plant, just such a sight was in evidence as the City of Los Angeles and its DWP said goodbye to two legendary veterans of the department. Daniel Saenz and Jim

Heggem both called it a career, retiring with almost a combined 100 years of civil service.

The Club heartily and humbly congratulates both men as examples of hard work and dedication that will be hard to match.

Daniel Saenz retired after 50 years. Jim Heggem retired with 41 years of service.

Eleven days before the joint retirement party, on Jan. 18, Saenz's family and friends honored him with a surprise party at the Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park to mark the occasion.

A resolution presented to Saenz read, in part: "Daniel Saenz manager of treatment operations, Water Quality and Operations Business Unit, has achieved 50 years of service with the DWP of the City of LA. He began his career in September 1954 as a messenger clerk in the Commercial Division and throughout his career has been promoted to more respon-

See Veterans Retire, Page 4



Jim Heggem (left) and Daniel Saenz greet well-wishers at their retirement reception.

DWP Providing Trees for You to Plant as Part of Free Program

There are few things better for the environment—and for your quality of life—than planting a tree or two on your own property. And now the DWP is making that easier and more affordable than ever.

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental initiatives that reduce energy use, improve air quality, and beautify local communities, the DWP offers Trees for a Green LA, which adds thousands of shade trees to Los Angeles' neighborhoods and communities just like yours. The DWP is providing residential customers with

free shade trees and the knowledge to plan for, plant and protect them.

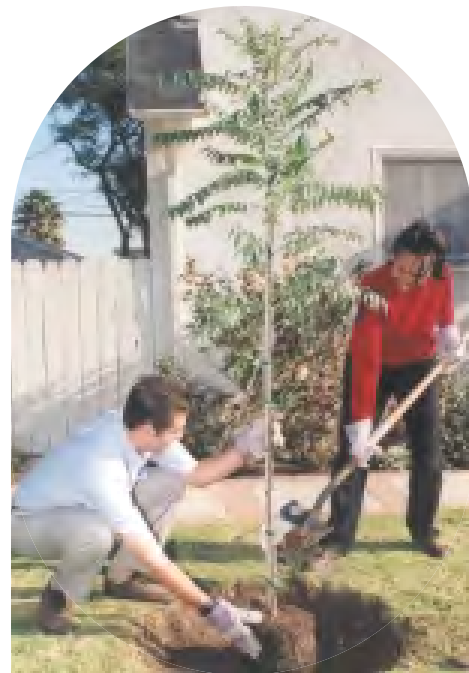
Through Trees for a Green LA, the trees planted today will yield benefits well into the future because:



■ by providing natural urban shading, mature trees help reduce air conditioning use and associated costs at homes and other buildings

by up to 20 percent;

See Tree Planting Program, Page 10



Newest Club Benefit: 20 Percent Off Paint

■ Club helps you paint the town red ... or blue, or any color you choose when you buy your paint products at Dunn-Edwards.

The Club is full of do-it-yourselfers. And the Club has just helped them save their hard-earned money when they purchase paint or paint products for their weekend projects.

Introducing the Club's Dunn-Edwards paint discount program. Use your Club card and save real money on high-quality paint

products.

Here's the deal: Just present your City Employees Club Card at the time of purchase at any Dunn-Edwards Paint store, and you'll receive a 20 percent discount on all Dunn-Edwards Manufactured Paint Products.

It's that simple. You purchase the highest quality paint products on the market, and you save money at the same time.

"We're happy to offer this great discount to Club members," said Paul Santo of Dunn-Edwards. "We know the Club has lots of members who like doing things for themselves. This discount will help them do it, with the very best products."

For 77 years, Dunn-Edwards Corporation has been a leading manufacturer and supplier of architectural and industrial coatings in the Southwest, providing a complete line of paints, wall coverings and sundry products to painting professionals and quality-conscious consumers alike.

Dunn-Edwards paints are manufactured exclusively in the Southwest and formulated specifically for the climate of the Southwest.

See New Club Benefit, Page 3



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Saenz, Heggem Retire With 91 Years of Service to City

Veterans Retire

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sible positions including water treatment operator and eventually to a second-level water treatment operator supervisor in the sanitary engineering division.

"In July 1998 he was appointed manager of treatment operations in the water quality and operations business unit, over the LA Aqueduct filtration plant and treatment facilities throughout the City of LA had been responsible for training department employees and community citizens in chlorine facility risk management procedures, teaching waterworks technology at LA Trade Technical College and has contributed to the water services organization supplying clean water to the citizens of Los Angeles, safely and effectively.

"It is resolved that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners commends Daniel L. Saenz for a career distinguished by his dedication and expertise in sincere appreciation of his 50 years of service."

Other awards and honors Saenz has received are: a California Legislature Assembly Resolution, a Certified Purchasing Manager Program Certificate of Achievement, and 12th Annual Ignacio Ramirez Award, for Saenz's many years of devoted service to the International Institute of Los Angeles Sr. Citizen Services Programs.

At his surprise party (he thought he was going to a wedding reception), Saenz was serenaded by a long list of distinguished speakers, including Master of Ceremonies and longtime friend Elio Leon, James Yannotta, James McDaniel, Marty Adams, Ruben Garcia, Michael Odom and Steve Torres, along with Daniel Saenz's wife of 48 years, Cristina, and his oldest son, Danny. Friends and family came from miles away to attend the party.

His son Danny's speech read, in part:

"[Growing up,] our vocabulary was filled with words like reservoirs, the river, the Owens Valley, Mojave, Bishop, GOB and of course, chlorine. We could tell people that our dad worked where the opening shot of the Andy Griffith show was filmed.

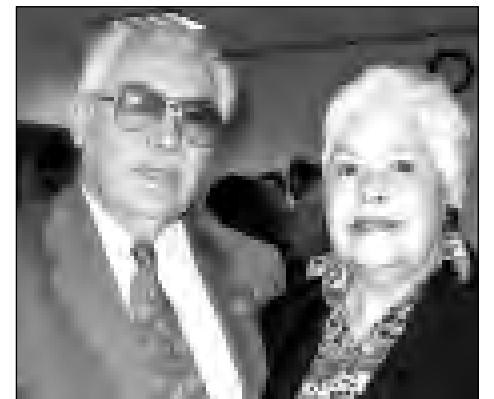
"We remember going to work with Dad—he went to different places all over the city. No matter which location you were at, it was the same—clean buildings with huge tanks of something hanging from the ceiling. The place was spotless and smelled the same way—cleaner than clean. The sound was like no other, a constant humming but with an echo. He would explain things to us, what he was doing and why he was doing it. It probably passed in one ear and out the other; it wasn't



Friends and coworkers celebrate Daniel Saenz's years of service.



Members of the Daniel Saenz family.



Daniel Saenz and his wife, Tina.

the information he shared that we remember, it is the time he spent with us.

"We will never forget the trip to Mojave. Dad had been working there and Mom packed us up and drove us out to surprise him. Any time we might have occasion to pass through the town of Mojave we can still see the Whites Motel and remember that trip.

"There are other things that are just part of our lives. None of us can look at a DWP vehicle and not check to see if it is a water or a power vehicle. When we meet someone and find out they work at DWP, the first question is, 'Do you work Water or Power?' Or defending the quality of the water in LA: No one is going to say my Dad's water isn't clean or doesn't taste good.

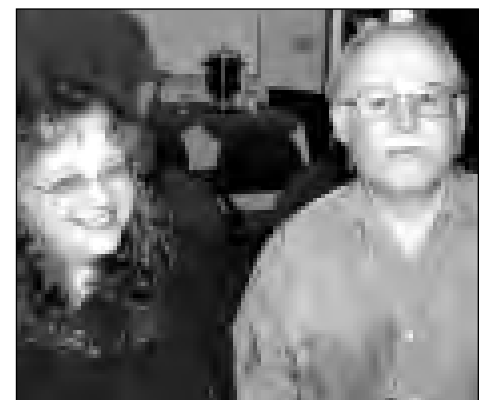
"That is what we remember, that is what we tell our kids about. We thank you for taking us to work with you and for teaching us about working hard. We admire your work ethic and your ability to stick with it all this time. We only hope that we can all demonstrate the same qualities to our children. So Dad, from the bottom our hearts, your children and grandchildren wish you well upon your retirement."

Jim Heggem

Jim Heggem has been a water treatment supervisor at the Los Angeles Aqueduct Plant since 1988 and has 41 years of service with the City.

Jim plans to obtain a motor home and, with his wife, Barbara, travel throughout the country. He has two sons, Jimmy and Gerald; a daughter, Marie; and a granddaughter.

Alive! thanks Steve Torres for this information. 📷



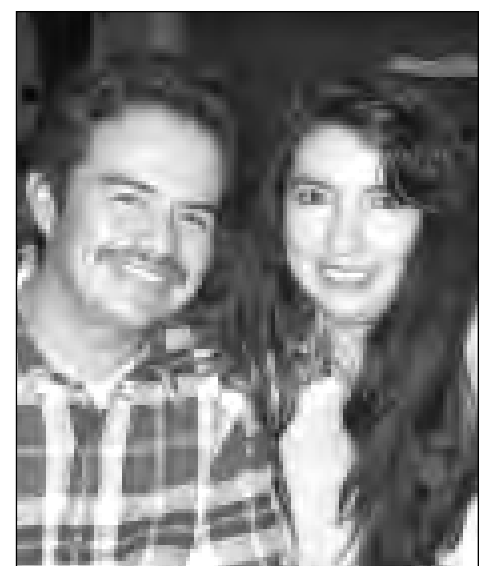
Jim Heggem and his wife, Barbara.



At the retirement reception.



Councilman Tom LaBonge (center) awards Jim Heggem (left) and Daniel Saenz with loaves of bread at their retirement reception.



At the retirement reception.