



The new Steam Plant Assistants, front row, from left: Jed Fernandez, Timothy Pridipun, Daniel Masteree Brown, and Terry de Ridder. Back: Samson La, Jared Pyle, Joe Savoy, Daniel Parsons, Pete Cenicerros Jr., and David Stockham.

Steam Plant Grads

DWP

Internal Generation Division graduates new class to work on City's steam plants.

Story and photo courtesy Joe Navarrete, DWP

The DWP graduated its Steam Plant Assistant Class 120 on April 5. Congratulations!

Steam Plant Assistants (SPAs) are the cornerstone of Steam Generation. They are the basis from which all Generation personnel start their career in the field working with the equipment that produces electricity. They also maintain the equipment, assist in repair, and help to ensure the constant supply of electricity to the citizens of Los Angeles.

SPAs are trainees for three journey-level crafts. For Operations, they are the eyes, ears, and hands of the Steam Plant Operators.

They maintain the equipment; perform daily check, inspections, tagging, and isolation of equipment for repair. For Instrumentation and Maintenance, they are assistants, helping the Instrument Technician and Steam Plant Maintenance Mechanics with preventative maintenance, repairs, and overhauls. In all three areas, SPAs receive constant training to help develop skills to promote to journey-level positions.

Prior to arriving at one of the four In-Basin generating stations, SPA candidates must pass the toughest two weeks in the DWP's SPA Candidate Evaluation Class. The 10-day eval-

uation class normally experiences a 25 to 30 percent dropout rate. The class consists of intensive training on boilers, gas and steam turbines, fuel systems, primarily auxiliary and ancillary station, electrical and mechanical systems, with numerous examinations each day.

SPAs who completed the 10-day evaluation class will now begin their careers in Generation. First, the SPA candidates will complete a New Employee Safety Indoctrination, followed by Basic Operator training, which will include how to inspect and maintain the equipment, write and complete work orders, isolate and boundary tag equipment

for repairs, and many other skills needed to be an operations trainee. New trainees will start their training programs on Principals of Steam Electric Generation, Del Mar Electrical, as well as station specific mechanical and electrical drawings, operating problems, and knowledge based check-offs of station equipment. All training is designed to promote and develop the highest caliber employee.

Congratulations to SPA Class 120: Daniel Masteree Brown, Pete Cenicerros Jr., Terry de Ridder, Jed Fernandez, Samson La, Daniel Parsons, Timothy Pridipun, Jared Pyle, Joe Savoy, and David Stockham.

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SEEN
Around Town
By Jennifer Shackelford
Club Application Coordinator

Mentryville

who this town is named for. This was California's first oil boom town and was home to over 100 families until the early 1930s. Still standing is Charles Mentry's thirteen-room mansion, a one-room school house and a period barn. While the buildings are being restored and maintained they are currently closed to the public. But there are miles of lush trails and verdant hillsides to explore. Trails leading out into the back country are accessed from a paved road leading out of Mentryville. If you decide to take a hike, just a short ways into the trail you will come upon Johnson Park, a lovely picnic spot that was once a favorite of the oil men who worked this area.

Mentryville and Pico Number 4 are both on the National Register of Historic Places and both are a great way to get a little exercise and learn a little more about our rich and interesting history.

Directions:
From the I-5, exit on Lyons Road/Pico Canyon Road. Head west. Near its end, bear left and continue to the end of the road. Parking is opposite historic Mentryville. Parking is \$5 at the "iron ranger"

If you happen to be in Newhall one weekend, take a drive down Pico Canyon Road. You will find a dirt road that will end in a piece of California history that began back in 1876. The town is called Mentryville and the nearby Pico No.4 was the areas first successful oil strike and later, proved to be the longest running well on record until it was capped in 1990.

Charles A Mentry, the oil wells driller and later, the superintendent of the company that would later become Chevron, is