

Careers in the Making

EG&G Training Plan Opens Doors for New Technicians

Reginald L. Cowart is a former hotel porter who stands a pretty good chance of becoming a first-class assembler of electronic components within the next six months, thanks to his participation in a new EG&G training program.

Cowart is one of 10 young Clark County men who have enrolled in a Las Vegas Operations training program designed to qualify inexperienced applicants for permanent employment as assemblers in the Technical Services Division at the Escondido facility.

Up to the time they entered the training course late last month, the men who are now student assemblers had little hope of penetrating a field that traditionally demands a good measure of experience from job candidates.

"But our program is particularly tailored for candidates who have little or no experience," Training and Development Manager Carl Naugle explained. "It will give them the experience and training they need to go up the technical ladder."

Under the tutelage of veteran EG&G technicians Sam Taylor and Hedrick Smith, the assembler trainees are rapidly developing skills and acquiring experience in the eight technical steps required for qualification as full-time assemblers.

"They are participating in classroom instruction and on-the-line performance in such areas as silk screening, chassis assembly, printed circuit board assembly, and processing wire harnessing and lacing, coaxial cable fabrication and soldering techniques.

And despite their inexperience in these areas, their overall performance has been very good, according to the technicians assigned to train them.

"They all show a lot of promise," Taylor reported. "They're enthusiastic and eager to learn; it's something they want to do."

One trainee, Louis R. Gibs, a former grocery store box boy, wanted to make engineering his career and he views this course as the first step along those lines.

But all trainees have demonstrated their interest and aptitude in electronics through screening tests administered by the Nevada State Department of Em-



FIRST TEST — Assembler Trainee Gary W. Browning (seated) gets a chance to apply his classroom knowledge to a real assembly job, as Instructor Sam Taylor looks on.

ployment, which is serving to process applicants for the EG&G program.

Unfortunately, the limitations of available workshop space restrict the size of the training classes to 12 members, and applicants must be selected on the basis of ability.

However, the training program is relatively short. It generally takes a solid two years of training to qualify a man as an assembler. EG&G's course does the job in six months, through more than 1,000 hours of continuous training, both on and off the job.

Students may trade the classroom for the assembly section in three months, but they must be classified as trainees for at least six months before being accepted as permanent employees.

In addition to their classroom studies, five of the trainees are going to Manpower Development and Training Program classes after work. These federally sponsored courses, incidentally, are taught by EG&G physicist Bryant Hansen and engineer Harold Judd.

To these men, the new EG&G training program is the first step in a lengthy program of practical education leading to future roles as electronics engineers.



PROVING GROUND — Ten young Clark County men who have little or no technical experience are now getting the background they need for careers in electronics, through a new EG&G training program for assemblers. Members of the first EG&G assembler training class include (clockwise, from left) Claude T. Smith, Reginald Cowart, Robert Gibbons Jr., Instructor Sam Taylor, Peter Franeldt, Instructor Hedrick Smith and Robert E. Pennington. (Wendy Donahoe Photo)



PEEWEE MUSTANGS — A new EG&G-sponsored baseball team took to the field last month—the Peewee League Mustangs. Here, Frank Young, of the Executive Staff, and Mel Johnson (left), EG&G draftsman and Mustang coach, check pre-game strategy with their players. To date, the Mustangs have scored three wins and only one loss in league competition.

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