

## IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO GET READY?

If you are still in school, you can take classes in mathematics, drafting and mechanical drawing, metal or industrial shop, or any construction courses which familiarize you with construction technology. These classes will help you to develop the dexterity and practical thinking skills you will need as an apprentice pile driver.

## WHAT ARE THE HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE PILE DRIVER?



Pile drivers generally work eight-hour days starting at 7:00 or 8:00 in the morning. However, on projects like bridges, highways and overpasses, pile drivers may be required to work nights and weekends, and to travel long distances. In such cases the union sees to it that pile drivers are compensated with shift pay and travel allowances. Apprentices usually start out helping journeymen with basic tasks like material handling, and move into more sophisticated jobs as their knowledge and skills increase. Overalls, hard hats, gloves, eye protection and steel toed boots are worn by



pile drivers to protect them from falling objects and the dirt, oil and debris associated with heavy equipment and machinery. Pile drivers work with a variety of hand and portable power tools, and frequently cut, join and fasten metal construction materials using welding equipment and oxy-acetylene torches.

## THE PAY AND THE BENEFITS REALLY ADD UP

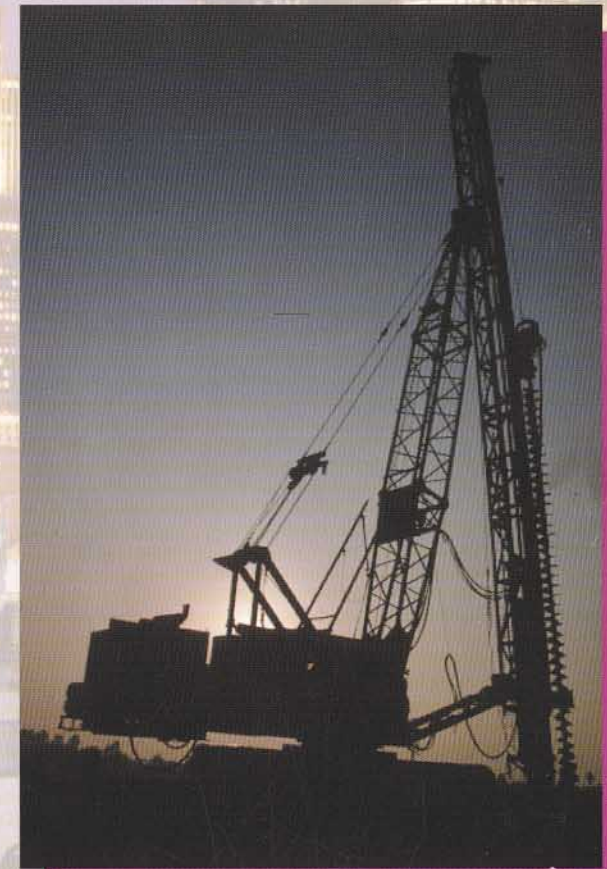
The rewards of apprenticeship training are the good wages and benefits you receive as a skilled building and construction tradesperson. And if you learn to be a commercial diver you will get even higher wages. We'll see to it! Because union pile drivers and divers belong to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

You'll be working for a good contractor with the protection of a union contract, which means you will probably have health insurance and pension and welfare benefits. It pays to be the best you can be—an apprentice-trained pile driver.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

You can become a

# PILE DRIVER



## WHAT IS A PILE DRIVER?

Pile drivers—They are the people who work with pile-driving rigs. You know, those big machines that look like cranes, but shake the ground as they drive metal, concrete or wood piling into the earth during the early stages of construction. Usually, pile drivers are the first workers at the construction site. They drive metal sheet piling to hold back the dirt during excavations. They drive concrete and metal piling as part of the foundation system upon which skyscrapers are built, and they



drive wood and concrete piling to hold up docks, wharfs and bridges. In some cases they work on off-shore oil rigs and as commercial divers involved in underwater construction. Pile drivers are also required to install heavy timbers and weld or cut large metal beams. If you like working outside with large equipment, heavy materials, and sometimes under extreme weather conditions, then you'll like the hearty occupation of the pile driver!

### HOW CAN I LEARN TO BE A PILE DRIVER?

Training for pile drivers is generally available through local labor-management apprenticeship committees. These committees, made up of contractor and union representatives, make sure that you get proper instruction while you are working to earn a decent wage. The first thing to do is call your local Pile Driver or Carpenter union to get more information.

And remember, pile drivers are members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, a proud organization with more than 650,000 members like yourself. Go for it!

## WHAT IS APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING?

An apprentice is someone who is learning a trade while working under the guidance of skilled workers called journeymen. Apprenticeship is on-the-job training. You earn while you learn, and are paid a wage from the first day you become an apprentice. Today, women are welcome in this specialized field. Beginning apprentices usually start at about half the journeyman rate of pay. Your wages will increase periodically, usually every six months, until you reach the full journeyman scale at the end of the apprenticeship period. In most cases the length of your apprenticeship is four years, with no cost to you for the training. What a Bargain!

