



DIGEST

Around and About

THE WRECKER's ball will start demolishing the Old Hall of Records in a few days. The contractor has nine months to raze the quaint old structure that for nearly 50 years was the seat of County government.

THE BOARD of Supervisors will begin discussing next month the best use to make of the \$84 million the County is receiving in U. S. revenue sharing funds. Department heads are funneling their suggestions to CAO Arthur Will.

ASSISTANT CAO Ted Durkee heads a task force studying what impact recently signed HR 1, the sweeping welfare measure, will have on County employees—particularly the 3,000 DPSS staffers who will be affected when aid to the aged, blind, and disabled is transferred to the federal government effective Jan 1, 1974.

PLEDGE CARDS for AID-United Givers are circulating in County offices as the 19th annual drive gets under way. Drive chairman Harold Ostly said a vigorous effort will be made to increase the number of givers, which presently stands at 69 percent of all County employees.

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New Department To Handle Buildings

THE DECISION has been made to create a new department to erect, buy, and manage County buildings. It is scheduled to be in business no later than next July 1.

The Board of Supervisors approved two reports (Nov. 28) from CAO Arthur Will and the Citizens Economy and Efficiency commission. Both recommended that a Facilities Acquisition and Management department should be set up and should include a project management division; the County engineer's architectural division and portions of his construction division; the department of real estate management; and "associated administrative service functions." Both reports also agreed that the new department might be expanded later into a General Services department that would include other County service departments.

Formal creation of the new department must be delayed until the legislature in Sacramento passes a bill permitting the Board of Supervisors to transfer the County engineer's architectural and construction divisions to the new department. Once such a law is on the books, the Supervisors are expected to ask the civil service commission to schedule an open, competitive examination to choose the new department's director. Under Proposition E passed by the voters last month, this high-level job will be open to all qualified applicants, both inside and outside the County service.

Meanwhile, the Board directed

that steps to form the new department should begin within the CAO's office, looking toward an independent department by next July.

The E and E commission report prophesied that creating the new department "will reduce by one year the average time for the County to acquire a major facility [and] will produce a savings of at least \$5 million annually."

Minorities Gaining

A RECENT report from director of personnel Gordon Nesvig shows the percentage of Anglo-Caucasians in the County work force shrinking, the percentages of Spanish-surname, Black, and Asian minorities growing.

Nesvig's report to the Board of Supervisors (Nov. 21) compared the number of monthly employees in December 1968 with those in November 1972.

Spanish-surname workers showed the fastest rate of gain—from 4.7 percent of the staff in 1968 to 8.6 percent now. Blacks had increased from 25.4 percent of the force to 27.9 percent. Asians went up from 2.6 percent to 3.5 percent. Meanwhile, the Anglo-Caucasian category dwindled from 66.5 percent to 59 percent.

In raw numbers, all groups showed a gain because the total number of monthly employees during the four years rose from 55,137 to 69,343. Thus, the Spanish-surname employees increased from 2,615 to 5,972; Blacks from 14,036 to 19,322; Asians from 1,453 to

(Continued on page 2)

Paychecks Will Get Seasonal Shrink

MOST COUNTY paychecks, starting Jan. 10, will have a new look—smaller.

The amount on them, that is.

January is the time of year when the wage earner's old friend, FICA, better known as the social security tax, resumes. During 1972 the bite has been 5.2 percent on the first \$9,000 of salary, or a maximum tax of \$468. Beginning Jan. 1, the tax, under the new federal social security act, will increase to 5.85 percent on the first \$10,800, for a maximum tax of \$631.80.

Auditor-controller Mark Bloodgood also reported that high-income employees will pay California income withholding tax at a top rate of 11 percent instead of the present 10 percent ceiling. This will affect single persons making \$1,292 or more a month and married persons with pay of \$2,583 or more a month. The 11 percent deduction also will apply to daily, recurrent, and other employees on a semi-monthly payroll if they receive \$646 or over (single) or \$1,292 or more (married).

Gavel-wielders Named

FIRST DISTRICT Supervisor Pete Schabarum was elected to his first term as Board of Supervisors chairman, Mrs. Thelma Mahoney was reelected president of the civil service commission, in the annual December balloting by both bodies.

Schabarum, in announcing 1973 Supervisor chairmanships of County departments, transferred APCD, the fire department, and sheriff from the fifth district to Supervisor James Hayes' fourth district. In turn, the coroner, public administrator-guardian, and communications departments were switched from the fourth district to Supervisor Baxter Ward in the fifth. In the only other change, Schabarum moved the music and performing arts commission from Ward to third district Supervisor Ernest Debs, and gave Ward chairmanship of the urban affairs department, formerly under Debs.

MINORITIES GAINING

(Continued from page 1)

2,444; and Anglos from 36,773 to 40,917.

Nesvig reported that two years ago only 11.3 percent of the County jobs paying \$16,150 a year (schedule 60) or more were filled by minority employees. Now that proportion has risen to 15.1 percent. Nesvig cautioned, however, that some of the increase was caused by a general rise in County salaries, the result of inflation.

Shaffer, Fingold Win

NORMAN SHAFFER and Solomon Fingold will begin new terms Jan. 1 after winning board seats in a tally of nearly 20,000 mail-in ballots from County employees.

Shaffer, an APCD engineer, outpolled eight other contenders to gain three-year terms on both the board of retirement and the board of investments.

Fingold, a Museum of Art electrician, defeated four other candidates for a three-year term on the suggestion award board.

Long-timers Leaving

EIGHT EMPLOYEES with more than 30 years County service are retiring. They are Edith Herriman, Margaret Harms, Hannah Kelley, and Marie Noeske, all of the hospital staff; Ollie Hamilton, Donna Liggitt, and Freda Pollock of DPSS; and Elsie Garcia of the marshal's office.

Christmas Program

YULETIDE SONG will fill the Music Center from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow (Dec. 23) in the 13th annual Christmas Music Program.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, coordinator of the event, said more than 2,000 performers—choirs, orchestras, soloists—will participate, representing Protestant, Mormon, Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox religions.

Admission and parking are free throughout the day-long musicale. It will be broadcast by KUSC-FM and KCET Channel 28.

Forms Ready for Retirement Credit

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS manager Ed Martin reports that application forms have been sent to all departmental payroll offices for employees seeking retirement credit for U.S. military or civilian service before they joined the County.

Martin estimated that approximately 25,000 County employees are eligible for credit, and about half of these will choose to apply immediately. Martin urged that applications be filed before next March 1.

After each application has been verified with federal records, Martin said, the applicant will receive a statement from Martin's office telling how much it will cost the applicant to "buy into" the County system with his federal credit. The applicant then may pay this amount in a lump sum, or arrange to pay it in installments plus interest at 4.25 percent. Installments may be spread over a maximum of five years.

(For further information on credit for U. S. service see the Dec. 1 DIGEST or call the retirement systems office, 440 Hall of Administration, telephone 625-3611 extension 64455.)

Evening Classes

SPRING SEMESTER evening classes for County employees will be listed in the next issue of THE DIGEST Jan. 12.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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