



# DIGEST

## *Around and About*

VETERANS DAY will return to Nov. 11 next year under a new state law. But it will remain at the fourth Monday in October this year (Oct. 22). However, the law provides that when Veterans Day falls on Saturday (next time is 1978) the preceding Friday shall be a holiday.

FORTY FORD Pintos have joined the County-owned herd of some 1,000 sedans—part of an experimental move toward smaller, long-mileage cars. The County truck fleet now includes 38 Datsun pickups.

CAO ART WILL has named Harry Hufford as his acting assistant CAO. Hufford replaces Ted Durkee who started this week his new job as CAO of Santa Cruz County. Hufford will serve pending a civil service exam for a permanent replacement.

GOVERNOR REAGAN has vetoed A.B. 2283, the bill that would have abolished APCD and five other Southern California county smog boards, replacing them with a single regional body extending from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

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## CENTREX DIALING DROPS 3 DIGITS

THE COUNTY'S Civic Center telephone system, Centrex, will be further simplified, starting at 6 p.m. today (Oct. 5).

After that hour, users will be able to place outside calls to anywhere in the Los Angeles "213" area by dialing "9" to get an outside line, then dialing the desired seven-digit number.

No longer will Centrex users have to dial a three-digit code (running from "103" to "119") when telephoning an outlying part of area "213." Beginning tonight, a computer will route these calls automatically.

Communications director Maurice Kennedy said that hereafter a caller who dials the three-digit code

will hear a recording, telling him the call cannot be completed.

Kennedy said there will be no change in the present system of dialing tie lines when placing calls within the Centrex system between Civic Center, Eastern Avenue, the Medical Center, Wayside Honor Rancho, and the flood control, road, and purchasing departments.

New yellow cardboard dialing information guides are being distributed to all Centrex phone stations, replacing the blue-colored guides which have been in use since the Centrex system began last June 4. Kennedy said the blue guides should be discarded after 6 p.m. today.

To place a long distance call outside the "213" area, Centrex users will dial "0".

## Car Pool/Bus Questionnaires Distributed

COUNTY EMPLOYEES in Civic Center began receiving questionnaires this week as the first step in creating a system of car pools and special commuter buses to reduce the number of employees driving their cars to work each day.

CAO Arthur Will said the system is part of a Board of Supervisors' effort to cut air pollution, relieve traffic and parking congestion, and conserve gasoline in the nation's energy crisis.

Deadline for returning the completed questionnaires is Oct. 15.

The questionnaires ask for each employee's name, home address, telephone number at work, working

hours, and whether the employee is interested in riding in a car pool or commuter bus service.

Will said information from the questionnaires will be fed into a computer, which will match the home and work locations, and working hours, of interested employees. This information will be given to employees about Nov. 1 so that they can volunteer for their own car pools.

Home addresses will be used in the computerized matching process but will remain confidential and will not be printed in the information that is distributed.

Will said the computerized data  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## QUESTIONNAIRES

(Continued from page 1)

also will be used for planning subscription bus service to Civic Center.

"We are working on plans for this special service with the Rapid Transit District and several private bus companies," Will said. "We intend that high quality, airconditioned buses with professional drivers will pick up subscribers near their homes in the morning, transport them to the door of their office building, and take them home right after work in the evening."

The CAO said a commuter living ten miles away spends an estimated \$700 a year driving his automobile to work.

"By joining a car pool or a subscription bus service, a worker can cut this amount sharply," Will said, "and in some cases he may be able to eliminate need for a second family car."

In addition to the economic incentive, the Board of Supervisors has directed the mechanical department to earmark certain parking spaces exclusively for Civic Center car poolers in the Mall garage, Health Building garage, and the Brunswig complex near Sunset.

Car poolers may apply for these spaces after Nov. 1 by calling mechanical's parking services division, 186-2171 (teline number).

The Board also told department heads to cooperate with employees who find that a slight change in working hours would enable them to join a car pool or bus service.

Once the ride-sharing program is established in Civic Center, it will be extended to outlying County offices.

## Lifeguards Bat 1,000

THE BEACHES department reports that lifeguards at the 17 County-run beaches hauled 5,075 swimmers from the ocean this year, had to resuscitate 68 of them who had stopped breathing, but lost none through drowning.

## Pay Boosts OK'd

PAY INCREASES are going into effect for 2,200 deputy probation officers, following Board of Supervisors approval of a 1973-74 agreement their unit signed with County management.

The Board also granted salary increases to 73 employees in five superior court classifications, whose pay is related to that of the DPOs.

In separate action, the Supervisors approved a 1973-74 memorandum of understanding which provides higher salaries for 227 superior court clerks.

## New Term for Helbling

IRVING HELBLING will begin a new three-year term as an employee relations commissioner next Sunday (Oct. 7). The Board of Supervisors reappointed him after receiving a letter from the County management council and a committee of employee organizations, saying they agreed he was the best qualified person for the position.

Helbling joined the three-man board in February 1972 following the resignation of then chairman Melvin Lennard.

## Letters—

### TO THE DIGEST:

These words are for any County employee who goes on an officially approved leave of absence without pay.

Your County health and life insurance can be continued while you are on leave provided you pay the full premium each month through our office. If you will provide your payroll office with your current address, we will bill you each month—and if you are on leave and don't receive a bill each month, call the personnel department insurance section, 974-2474.

Health and life insurance coverages automatically lapse if premiums are not paid.

GUNTHER DUMALSKI  
Employee Insurance Manager  
Department of Personnel

## Open Office Plans

A CONSULTANT will plan "open space" offices for three departments, under a proposal approved by the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday (Oct. 2).

The open space system, using large open areas with low, movable partitions and sound-absorbing carpets, will be designed for the chief administrative office and real estate management department in the Hall of Administration, and on the sixth and seventh floors of the Community Health Services building, 313 North Figueroa street.

Open space offices reportedly provide more attractive work surroundings and save 12 to 15 percent in square footage, compared with the conventional "cubbyhole" system with fixed floor-to-ceiling partitions.

## Farewell to County

COUNTY LIBRARIAN William Geller, 59, retired this week after a 36-year career with the County. He began as a \$50-a-month administrative trainee in 1937, joined the library eleven years later as business manager, and became librarian in 1963.

Others retiring with more than 30 years service include Donald Hopkins, Maria Meyers, and James Jackson of hospitals; William Knox, Museum of History; Evelyn Helm, library; Herbert Meehan, health; June Pace, DPSS; Robert Robeson, road; and Frank Torribio, probation.

County of Los Angeles

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