



# DIGEST

## *Around and About*

ONCE IT was the Mode O'Day building, where seamstresses made dresses. Later, when the County moved in, it became the Assessor building. After the assessor packed off to Civic Center in the early 1960s, it became the Education building in honor of the superintendent of schools. Now his departure for the Downey administrative center has led the Board of Supervisors (Feb. 13) to rechristen the old structure at 155 West Washington boulevard the Parks and Recreation building, named for its chief remaining tenant.

AN EXHIBIT showing County government as it was in grandpa's day will open in the Criminal Courts building main lobby in mid-March. Displays will include the original clock from the limestone courthouse of 1899, a typical County office of the early 1900s complete with roll-top desk and other archaic equipment, and photographic blow-ups of County scenes from 1894 to the present.

WALTER HEATH announced this week he will retire as director of adoptions March 31.

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## LIFE INSURANCE SIGN-UP OPENS

THE DEPARTMENT of personnel announced this week that an open-enrollment period for optional life insurance will be held the first three weeks in April.

Enrollment in accidental death and dismemberment policies will also be open.

Any permanent, fulltime employee may subscribe by obtaining forms at his departmental personnel or payroll office between mid-March and April 19.

This will be only the second open-enrollment period since the County launched its optional life insurance program in 1968.

Some 70,000 fulltime, permanent employees are eligible for the optional policies. (All these employees also are automatically covered by the County-paid \$2,000 life policies.) At present approximately 15,700 are buying additional optional life coverage and 11,600 have accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. Many employees carry both.

Gunther Dumalski, County em-

ployee benefits manager, said present enrollees, if they wish, may adjust or add to their policies during the open enrollment period.

Premiums for optional life insurance range upward according to an employee's age—from 10 cents a month per \$1,000 for an employee under age 20 up to \$1.31 per month per \$1,000 for a worker over age 60. Premiums rise for each five-year age bracket. (See premium table on page 2.)

In addition, the employee may obtain \$1,500 coverage on the lives of all his dependents by paying 74 cents more a month.

Optional life policies are available in amounts equal to one-half an employee's annual salary, once his annual salary, or twice his annual salary.

AD&D policies are written in seven amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000. The cost is 5 cents per month per \$1,000 coverage; or if the employee wishes to include coverage for his dependents, too, the

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## County Use of Power and Gas Plummet

THE COUNTY'S energy-saving program has resulted in sharp cuts in use of both electricity and natural gas, the CAO's office reported this week.

Lowered thermostats and shutdowns of elevators, escalators, and lighting have reduced power consumption by 38 percent in four big Civic Center buildings, compared with a year ago. The buildings are the Hall of Administration, Hall of Records, County Courthouse, and Criminal Courts building.

Even more dramatic cuts have

taken place in three outlying facilities where special electronic controls and shutdown devices have been installed. At Van Nuys civic center, electricity use was down 58 percent, natural gas consumption down 62 percent. At Pomona courts, electricity also was down 58 percent, gas consumption down 49 percent. The Bell Gardens library used 41 percent less electricity, 68 percent less gas.

Similar control programs are being installed in ten other outlying County facilities.

## Premiums

THE FOLLOWING monthly premium rates will be in effect on County optional life insurance policies until Nov. 30, 1978:

Age bracket	Premium per \$1,000 per month
Under age 20	10 cents
20 through 24	11 cents
25 through 29	11 cents
30 through 34	12 cents
35 through 39	16 cents
40 through 44	23 cents
45 through 49	36 cents
50 through 54	55 cents
55 through 59	87 cents
60 through 64	\$1.31

## INSURANCE

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rate is 6 cents per month per \$1,000.

Policy holders who sign up during the April open enrollment will find the first premium deduction from their paychecks June 10. The new coverage will begin July 1.

Dumalski said that among the 180 employees who died during 1973, only 44, less than 25 percent, carried optional life insurance (although all were covered by the \$2,000 County-paid policy).

Biggest killer among the 180 deaths last year was heart disease (38 percent) followed by cancer (27 percent) and other illnesses (10 percent). Violent deaths such as accidents, suicides, and homicides claimed 44 victims (24 percent).

Dumalski said heart disease took its greatest toll among men aged 45 to 64; cancer killed about an equal number of men and women, mostly in the 45 to 64 bracket. Accidental deaths occurred mostly among young males, aged 25 to 34.

Actually, some deaths occurred in all age brackets, with 25 percent of them among employees aged 39 or less.

## Cafeterias Have New Operators

NEW OPERATORS are running the cafeterias in the Hall of Administration basement and the Hall of Records 15th floor. The changeover from the former concessionaire, the W. P. Stewart company, took place Feb. 13.

The Board of Supervisors approved a one-year agreement with Mannings, Inc., to manage the Hall of Administration eatery. Mannings will absorb all losses and keep all profits from the operation.

The Board designated the State of California Business Enterprise Program to handle the Hall of Records cafeteria. The Program already operates cafeterias in the County Health building, the Downey administrative center, and the superior courthouses in Torrance and Santa Monica. The Program, which was awarded the Hall of Records concession for an indefinite term, will spend \$35,000 during the next four months to remodel the cafeteria kitchen and serving areas.

"We expect improved results from these new operators," said union representative Sam McNeal, chairman of the employees' cafeteria committee. "We hope all Civic Center employees will give them a try."

## Retirements

FORTY-ONE employees with County service ranging up to 37 years are retiring this month, according to the board of retirement.

Among them is regional planning director Orville Christenson, who joined the County in 1941.

The four with more than 35 years service are Dorothy Fawcett, DPSS; Charles Green, flood control; Paul Levy, sheriff; and Robert Williams, engineering.

Those with 30 to 35 years service include Gay Bunn, Norvin LaMotte, Jesse Levy, Jr., William Pope, and Vinton Roberts of the sheriff's department; Jerry Fryer, Sr., James Harpel, William Slead, and Hayden Swingle, fire; George Morris, communications; Joseph Sullivan and George Sutherland, marshal; Alexander Ainslie, asses-

## Social Security Stays

AN INQUIRY into whether the County should withdraw from the federal social security system came to an abrupt end (Feb. 13) as the Board of Supervisors decided, after brief discussion, to drop the idea and continue with the present retirement system.

Under the present integrated system, all County employees hired since 1964 have been covered by both social security and the County retirement system.

## Bus Talks under Way

THE CAO's request to 35 public and private bus companies (Feb. 7) to submit proposals for providing subscription bus service to County employees has drawn two responses—from the RTD and a private Van Nuys firm. The CAO is negotiating with the two operators as to possible routes and rates.

sor; Ray Anderson, Don Le Gault, and Lloyd Smith, engineering; Robert Chamberlin, municipal court; William Cooper, Charles Francone, and Frederick Nissen, purchasing; Curtis Clarkson, James Fulton, and Arthur James, health services; Lawrence Crowl, Doris Pressler, and Charles Prime, road; Edwin Dabney, Jr., flood control; Donald Long and Robert McGuire, parks; Ward McConnell and Benjamin Ostrin, superior court; Nicholas Merlo, probation; Arthur Pritchard, William Stamey, and George Wong, mechanical; and Hilda Swanson, data processing.

County of Los Angeles

## DIGEST

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