



DIGEST

Around and About

New director of the County Museum of Art is Earl A. Powell, III. Selected by the Museum's Board of Trustees, his appointment was confirmed by the Board of Supervisors on Supervisor Edelman's motion. Dr. Powell, 36, has been executive curator of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1969 and is a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserve. He is married and the father of two young daughters. Dr. Powell succeeds Kenneth Donahue who was named director emeritus upon his retirement in January 1979

The County's Consumer Affairs Department recently honored 40 volunteers who have devoted at least four hours weekly to assisting the department's staff in helping County residents with consumer problems. Certificates of Training were awarded volunteers who have completed the department's 16-hour training course in consumer protection and have also had on-the-job training in handling consumer inquiries. Also, Certificates of Commendation were presented volunteers who have finished their training period and have given continuous and conscientious service to the department

Members of the new Los Angeles County Earthquake Fact-Finding Committee were sworn in January 18 by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. The Committee has been empowered by the Board of Supervisors to compile an updated report of the most current information available on earthquakes, the possibilities for prediction, where active fault lines exist, what safety procedures are appropriate, and how building codes and planning guidelines might be improved

FEBRUARY

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Health Plan Enrollment Opens

The annual open enrollment period for all County-administered health plans will be held from February 15 through March 14, according to the Department of Personnel. During this open period, any full-time permanent or CETA employee may join, switch or add dependents to any County-administered health plan.

The medical plans available are Kaiser, Blue Cross, Ross-Loos, Blue Shield, Maxicare, Hospital-Only and a new Blue Shield major medical plan being offered for the first time.

The new Blue Shield plan is similar to Blue Cross' but has a limited mental health outpatient benefit not available in the Blue Cross plan. Together with Maxicare, the County now offers two health plans which feature a limited outpatient mental health benefit.

Information regarding all plans and enrollment forms is available in each department's personnel-payroll offices.

For the workers who are eligible but not now enrolled, the open enrollment provides the opportunity to sign up in the plan of their choice.

For the employees already enrolled, eligible family members not now enrolled can be added to the employee's present plan or employees can switch plans.

The effective date of coverage from all open enrollment actions will be June 1, 1980. Employees who want to continue their present coverages need not make any changes.

The County-administered life and dental insurance plans are *not* involved in this open enrollment period. However, an announcement regarding the enrollment of dependents under the County's dental insurance plan will be made before June with coverage to become effective on July 1, 1980.

Brotherhood Crusade 1980 Campaign Begins

The Brotherhood Crusade's 1980 campaign for County employees was launched recently at a luncheon attended by various County administrators, including Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

Mrs. Burke, who is this year's chairperson for the County campaign, requested all County department heads to take an active part in making the fund-raising drive an even greater success than last year's.

She noted that the 1980 Charitable Giving Campaign, which includes both the Brotherhood Crusade and United Way as approved agencies for contributing through payroll deduction, has already started in a few departments.

Lonnie R. Bunkley, Probation Director II in the Probation Department's south central area office, is chairman of the board of trustees for the Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade.

PAYCHECK ERRORS

The Auditor-Controller reports that, as a result of the new payroll system with new procedures and forms, an inordinate number of paycheck errors have occurred recently. As all personnel become more familiar with the new system, these errors will be greatly reduced. However, some errors will occur from time to time.

When these problems arise, employees should contact their departmental payroll office who will in turn work directly with the Auditor-Controller's payroll office to resolve the problem.

Salary Ordinance Changes Outlined



Honored for Bravery

Mechanical Department security officer Alfred Collins, a 24-year County veteran, has been saluted as KNX News Radio's Citizen of the Week and commended by the Board of Supervisors for his heroics in thwarting a robbery attempt in the basement of the Hall of Administration.

On December 18, Officer Collins was protecting Margaret Montgomery of the County Clerk's office as she was walking to the Treasurer's office with receipts from the Courthouse when two men accosted them with guns and demanded money.

Officer Collins shoved the two guns away; drew his .38 caliber revolver and exchanged shots, possibly wounding one of the attackers.

KNX News Radio honored Collins for his outstanding public service in protecting life and property, and the Board of Supervisors officially commended the officer for his brave actions.

Los Angeles Police report one of the two suspects has since been apprehended.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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The Department of Personnel has announced the following changes to the General Provisions of the Salary Ordinance were made on July 1, 1979. Employees are urged to familiarize themselves with the new policies.

Bereavement Leave—Effective October 26, 1979, grandfather, grandmother and grandchild are included in the list of persons upon whose death an employee may be granted bereavement leave.

Bilingual Bonus—Effective July 1, 1979, the bonus has been increased to \$30 per month.

Reinstatements—Effective October 26, 1979, except in the case of laid-off employees, an employee who is reinstated shall be treated as a new employee without previous County service and shall be placed on the first step of the salary range for the position to which he is being reinstated.

Sick or Injury Leave — Effective January 1, 1980, part-pay sick leave benefits are amended by reducing all 75 percent benefits to 65 percent and establishing a five-day waiting period for the use of part-pay benefits. No change in the number of days allowed or in the 50 percent benefits. If you don't have full-pay sick leave to cover the five-day span, you can use vacation or overtime; if you have none, it will be taken without pay. Note: Each occurrence establishes a new five-day waiting period.

Sick Leave Reimbursement—If no sick leave was used in 1979, you can elect to be paid for two days of your sick leave. If an employee used 6 days or less of full-pay sick leave or part-pay sick leave between January 1-June 30, 1979 and used no sick leave days between July 1-December 31, 1979, he may elect to be paid for one day of sick leave.

Transfers — Effective October 26, 1979, employees can no longer receive a cash payoff for unused deferred vacation or accumulated overtime. All such time must be transferred in whole to the new department.

Vacation — Effective October 26, 1979, accrued current and deferred vacation may exceed 40 days. An excess of 40 days may be deferred for

no more than one year, in which time they should have been used. However, if for a legitimate reason those excess days cannot be used in that year, the employee may receive a cash payoff.

Bus Passes

The Treasurer and Tax Collector is now selling monthly RTD passes as a new service to County employees and the public at large.

Under an agreement between the County and the RTD, the passes are sold at the cashier windows in the lobby on the first floor of the Hall of Administration. Sales take place from the 25th of each month through the 10th of the following month.

Cash only (no checks or credit cards) is required for purchase of the passes.

Retirees—

THE DIGEST will periodically publish the names of retiring County employees when space and printing deadlines permit.

The Board of Retirement announced the following employees are departing the County this month after more than 30 years of service:

SHERIFF: Robert Breen, Donald H. Cannon, Max R. Chance, James F. Daly, Jr., Edward F. De Lamere, William H. Fairchild, James W. Joyce, Jr., James E. Madigan, Roderick A. McLendon, Marvin E. McRoberts, Joseph M. Rosenberg, Earl T. Spurlin, Curtis Latimore.

FIRE: Grant D. Brown, Raymond O. Cash, Roland E. Rister, George J. Jamen.

FLOOD CONTROL: Frederick H. Baalbergen, Emelio Flores, Joseph T. Jones, Jr., Darrel R. Miller, Robert E. Perrin.

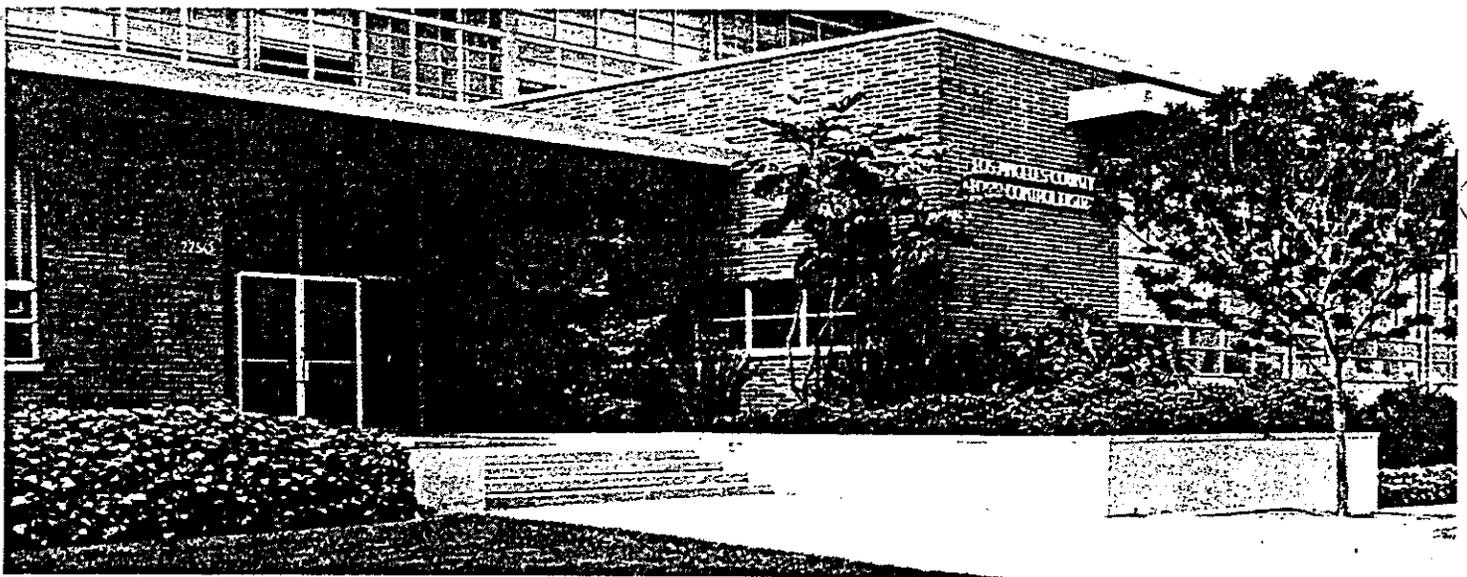
HEALTH SERVICES: Lorraine Dunning, Gladys Foster, Elsie J. Grey, Vera L. Guzman, Della L. Jones, Theodore A. Kleinhanz, Kenneth L. Saylor.

DPSS: Eunice Billups, Arnold K. Cameron, Margaret A. Mosso.

ENGINEER: Raymond C. Bowers, Gerald E. Johnson, Joseph C. Roohan.

ROAD: Edward D. Eveleth, Clayton S. Hockenberry, Willia E. Langie.

Also: Richard H. Weaver, Beaches; Harty Bowie and Julio Gonzalez, Mechanical; Dolores J. Coughlin and Edward A. Robinson, Probation; Jean P. Evans, Adoptions; Edward E. Guerrero, Auditor-Control; Lawrence B. Hendrickson, Assessor; Robe. D. Macphee and Norman R. Shaffer, SCA-Recorder; and Marie T. Wilson, County QMD; Elfriede I. Suedmeyer, Registrar-Counsel.



NERVE CENTER — Flood Control District headquarters in East Los Angeles.

Flood Control

in an area characterized as semiarid where water is a scarce commodity, the District manages to capture and hold in its system about 40 percent of our total water needs. Because of the County's tremendous growth, it has been necessary to seek other resources for water—which must be bought—but storing our own rainfall saves taxpayers millions of dollars every year. The system not only works, but pays part of its own way.

Problems? Sure there are some. Take a look at our geography. Ever notice how we seem to be sitting in a bowl? This bowl contains our underground storage of multibillions of gallons of water we have managed to save for future use. And right next to it sits the Pacific Ocean ready to move in and make our whole water supply useless. The main reason your water hasn't tasted salty is that the District solved this problem by developing a system of pressure wells along those areas vulnerable to intrusion—literally a row of underground "dams" of fresh water holding the ocean back and keeping our water unpolluted. This essential system also costs money to make it work, but it's worth every penny spent.

For several months prior to passage of Proposition 13, the District had been reducing its personnel. Construction jobs were being completed on schedule and the need for some skills had ceased. With the passage of Proposition 13, the District received a sudden and severe financial blow. Dependent upon the property tax for operating revenue, the District saw these funds cut by more than 66 percent.

Under the circumstances, the District could do little more than tighten its belt, look more closely at established priorities, and continue to fight floods and conserve water as best it could with the limited resources it had left.

With the recent passage of Proposition A, the voters indicated their continued support of maintaining essential flood control services. This support provides a stable financial base for the District to carry out its vital functions.

As the citation by the American Society for Public Administration noted, "the community of Los Angeles owes the staff of this agency a great debt and, as colleagues, we are all enlarged by the extraordinary quality of this public management achievement."



FLOOD UPDATE

Timing of this story was emphasized by the savage flood that struck the area in February. Hundreds of County employees worked long hours to cope with the seemingly endless series of storms that rolled across the southland.

The emergency made headlines throughout the nation and the Board of Supervisors praised the efforts of the Flood Control District and other personnel who responded with professional skill and dedication.

VITAL TO COUNTY GROWTH

Recent award of a special citation to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District by the local chapter of the American Society for Public Administration underscores the outstanding job the agency has done since its creation by the State Legislature in 1915.

The award recognizes the District's "remarkable capacity to do its work well under uncertain and adverse conditions."

Noting the agency's extreme difficulties in the wake of Proposition 13, the ASPA citation states: "... high workload, decreased funds, decreased staff, increased uncertainty, have somehow been managed and managed intelligently and with pride."

Although a special district, CFCD is a close member of the County family and is governed by the Board of Supervisors who are the directors of the agency.

Charged with two important assignments—the control of potentially dangerous floodwater runoff to minimize and, eventually eliminate major flood disasters; and second, the conserving of precious water to help meet the need by the growing community for almost 2 billion gallons of water each day—CFCD has developed an outstanding organization to meet them.

To cope with the prodigious tasks assigned, the District created a control system consisting of 14 major dams, each establishing a large reservoir of essential water; and more than 150 debris basins in foothill areas to trap and hold debris, protecting communities below

from damage and keeping the system free of clogs and jams in the thousands of miles of open and underground flood channels which convey storm waters to spreading grounds, the "doorways" into the huge storage areas lying beneath much of the County.

An essential part of the system is the network of storm drains, financed through four bond issues approved by the voters, which siphons water off the streets during rainstorms.

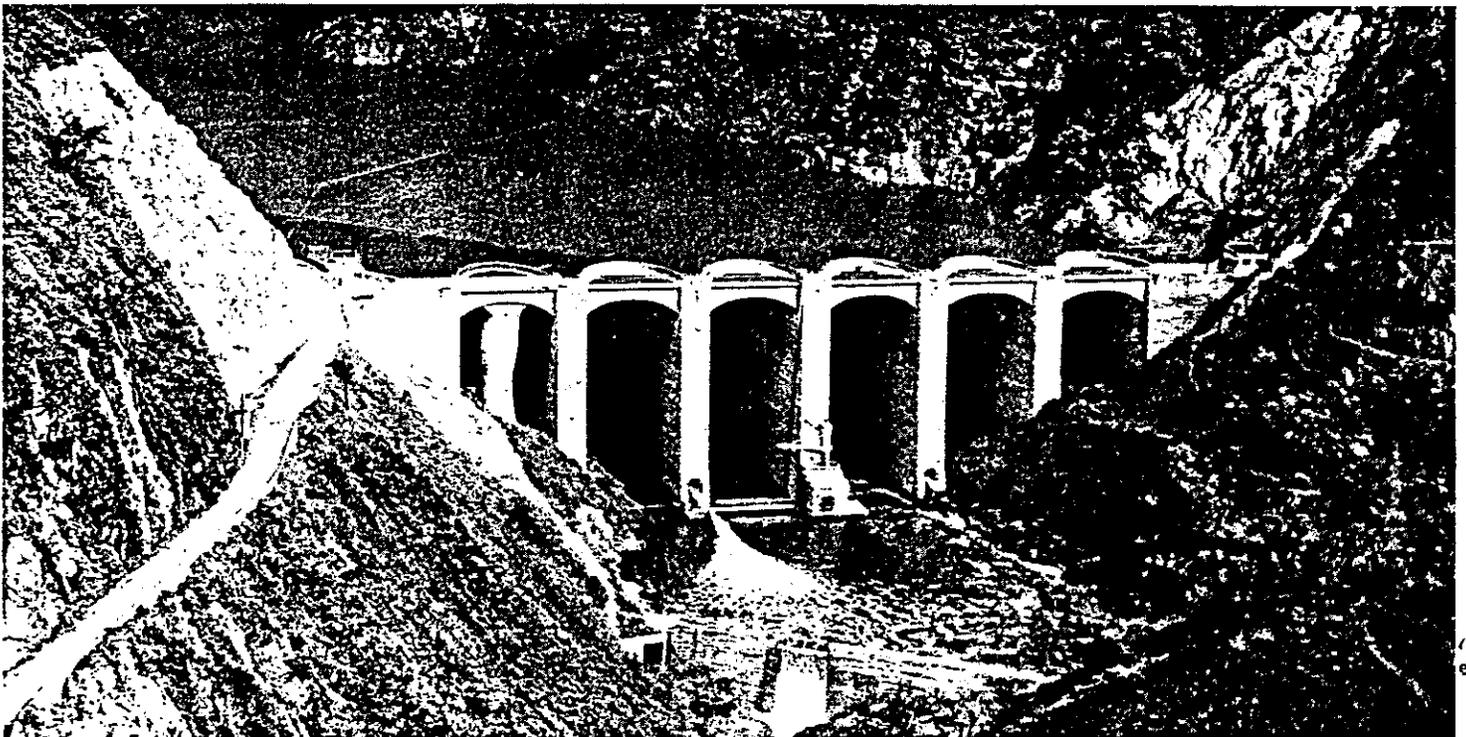
Designing and constructing this massive system has taken more than 50 years. Keeping it working is a never-ending effort. Although it is a billion-dollar-plus system, it is a bargain when measured what could happen if it weren't there.

It is obvious the system works. In 1914, before flood control work was undertaken, a severe rainstorm isolated the entire Southern California community from the outside world for several weeks, causing more than \$10 million in damage plus several deaths and many injuries. And there were only 700,000 people living in the County at the time, and not a tenth of the buildings now in place.

Today similar rainstorms may cause some flooding and mudslide problems in the foothills but usually result in a few intersections temporarily under water.

What about our continuing need for water? Even

(Continued on next page)



BIG DALTON DAM — One of 14 in front line of flood protection.