



DIGEST

Around and About

The Board of Supervisors has appointed two new department heads. Named to the top spot in the Department of Public Social Services is Eddy S. Tanaka, and the new head of the Department of Communications is George Y. Tice. Tanaka had been serving as acting director of his department. Prior to rejoining DPSS where he had previously spent 9 years, Tanaka had worked 8 years in the CAO and had been chief of the Budget Division. He holds a Business Administration degree from UC, Berkeley, and spent two years in the armed forces. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Hacienda Heights with their three children. Tice joined the Communications Department in 1975 and had been acting assistant director since September 1979. Before joining the County, he worked 15 years for RCA, holding a number of key positions in this country and abroad. He holds a B.S. degree in electronics engineering from the University of Delaware and a master's from the University of Pennsylvania. A Korean-conflict veteran, Tice resides in Monterey Park and has three children

Supervisors adopted a \$4.5 billion budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year late in June. To help fund it, they decided to utilize several one-time-only financial sources

Supervisor Hahn and District Attorney Van de Kamp have easily won reelection to new four-year terms. Supervisors Burke and Ward will be facing runoff opponents in the November general election

Northridge resident Carolyn Llewellyn is now serving as chairman of the Regional Planning Commission. An appointee of Supervisor Ward, she has been on the Commission since 1972 and has long been active in community affairs

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INSURANCE PLAN EXPANDED

County Dental Program Now Covers Dependents

The County-sponsored Blue Cross Dental Insurance program now provides coverage for eligible dependents of employees enrolled in this plan, the Department of Personnel has announced. The extended coverage for dependents took effect automatically July 1 so no further enrolling action is required by employees.

To utilize the dental insurance, dependents need only to complete the Blue Cross claim forms provided when they visit their dentist for treatment. It is important that they fill in the identifying information from which their eligibility for coverage will be determined.

Dependents will use the same group number and certificate number shown on the enrolled employee's Blue Cross identification card since they will not be issued their own cards, according to the Department of Personnel.

Dependents will receive identical coverage as employees for dental services, which includes 85 percent of "usual, customary and reasonable" (UCR) charges for the first two teeth cleanings per year. For all other covered work, each dependent must pay the first \$25 of allowable charges, called the "annual deductible," and Blue Cross of Southern California will pay 85 percent of the UCR charges for standard services until a maximum of \$1,000 per year has been paid.

Dentures and other prosthodontics are covered at a 50 percent

rate, while orthodontia (braces), replacement of lost dentures, and cosmetic-only services are not covered.

Other insurance coverage limitations and eligibility requirements are more fully covered in a brochure called "Your County Dental Plan," available from your personnel office.

Voting Due For Two County Boards

Ballots for the election of members to the Boards of Retirement and Investments must be received by the Registrar on or before 5 p.m., August 8, to be counted.

Candidates for the vacant seat on the Board of Retirement are Daniel P. MacManus De Pina, Auditor-Controller; Anthony F. Martini, Communications; Gino Iovine, M.D., Health Services; Jack M. Thomas, Mechanical; and Jason H. Williams, Building Services.

Candidates for the seat on the Board of Investments are Jason H. Williams, Building Services; Daniel P. MacManus De Pina, Auditor-Controller; Anthony F. Martini, Communications; Jack M. Thomas, Mechanical; Emmett E. Brown, DPSS; Gino Iovine, M.D., Health Services; Raymond L. Barrera, Probation; and Marvyn Kaye, District Attorney.

Pay And Benefit Increases Due Most Employees

Most County employees saw about a 7 percent increase in their July 25 paychecks as the result of salary and benefit increases which became effective on July 1.

Changes that affect pay and benefits include:

—The County will continue to pick up the increase in employee retirement contributions necessitated by the last actuarial study of the retirement system. These increases would have reduced employee take-home pay by approximately 1.5 percent in 1979-80 and an additional 1.5 percent in 1980-81.

—Dental plan coverage has been extended to covered employees' dependents at the same level of benefits available to employees. This additional benefit was also granted at County expense.

—The sick leave reimbursement policy has been expanded to allow qualifying employees to sell back a total of four days of unused sick leave earned during fiscal 1980-81. Two of these days may be sold back in January 1981 and two in July 1981.

—Bilingual pay has been increased from \$30 to \$45 per month.

—The premium overtime rate limits have been raised.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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COUNTIES PLAY KEY ROLE IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A recent backgrounder from the National Association of Counties provides some interesting information about county governments in the United States.

There are 3104 county-type governments in the nation and of this total, 3042 are county governments and 62 are either city-county consolidations or independent cities having the powers of a county government.

A total of 98.1 percent of the nation's citizens are served by county governments—Rhode Island and Connecticut do not have counties.

Size-wise, counties range from Loving County, Texas, with 164 residents to—you guessed it—Los Angeles County with 7 million citizens and a budget larger than 43 of the 50 states.

In 1976-77, counties nationwide spent \$41.4 billion. Of this, \$7.8 billion was spent on public welfare, \$6.6 billion on education, \$4.3 billion on hospitals, \$3.9 billion on highways, \$3.7 billion on financial administration and general control, \$3.2 billion on police and corrections, and \$1.9 billion on health.

USC JOBS

The University of Southern California is looking for qualified people to fill some 200 positions ranging from entry-level jobs requiring little or no experience to specialized fields such as managerial and supervisory positions and professions.

For parents with children planning college careers, USC grants 100 percent assistance to the children of employees who have four or more years of service.

Some of the current openings may be ideally suited for spouses of County employees, USC spokesman Dennis R. Archambault said.

Additional information may be obtained by telephoning Archambault at 743-6106.

The remaining \$10 billion was spent on a variety of services such as sewers, parks, public buildings, fire protection, libraries, and interest on the general debt.

For the first time in 1970, the Census Bureau identified more people living outside central cities than inside central cities. Today there are 334 counties with populations over 100,000 compared to only 153 cities with populations over 100,000.

In fact, of the 40 largest urban governments, 30 are counties and 10 are cities.

New Hispanic Group Seeks Members

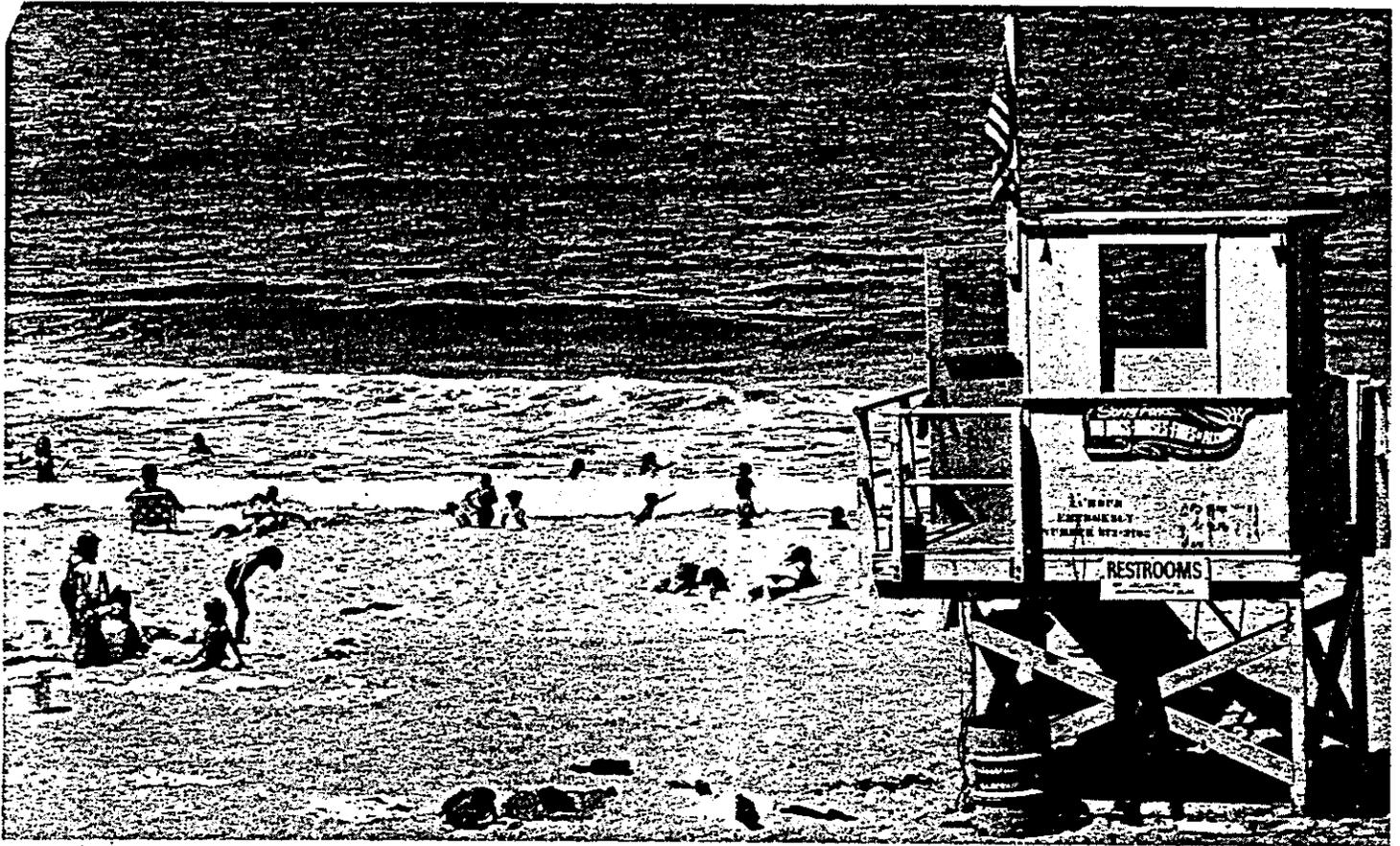
The recently formed County Hispanic Managers Association (CHMA) is seeking members who are interested in furthering the development and implementation of County programs and operational procedures to improve the delivery of County services to the Hispanic community.

Eligibility is based on a person having at least one subordinate supervisor or persons who serve in an executive-level staff or advisory capacity.

CHMA meets monthly and works to enhance County government through the development and advancement of Hispanic County managers. Additional information may be obtained by telephoning 722-7802.

The Association's directors are Robert Gomez, Community Development, president; Ralph Lopez, Health Services, 1st vice president; John Baca, Mental Health, 2nd vice president; Mario Sewell, Health Services, secretary; and Bob Arias, Affirmative Action, treasurer.

Directors-at-large are Bob Medina, Senior Citizens Affairs; Helen Ramirez, Adoptions; Evelyn Gutierrez, Personnel; Armando Lopez and Connie Diaz, Health Services.



DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES / A YEAR-ROUND OPERATION

Now that summer's here, the beaches are again becoming popular refuges from the heat and congestion of city life. Last year when we all said goodbye to our favorite beach location, we knew it would be waiting for us again this year.

But what happens to the beaches when the dear old summer is gone? The beaches remain, but who maintains them and who saves the lives of swimmers and boaters in the ocean during the fall, winter, and spring months?

Los Angeles County has 37 miles of public beach, and the responsibility for providing year-round maintenance and lifeguard service along those beaches belongs to the Department of Beaches. The department also provides lifesaving services for swimmers and boaters along the entire 73 miles of county shoreline.

Headquartered at 2600 Strand in Manhattan Beach, the department operates nine Baywatch rescue boats along the coast, maintains crafts and crews at Avalon and at the isthmus at Catalina Island on a year-round basis,

provides lifeguard service during Easter and summer vacations at Catalina's overnight campgrounds of Ben Weston Beach and Little Harbor, and responds to emergencies around the perimeter whether they be from boaters or hikers in distress.

Headed by acting Director Jerry Cunningham and assisted by acting Assistant Director Ken Johnson and Deputy Director Bob Williams, the Department of Beaches has a permanent employee population of 203. Seasonal employees include an additional 567 recurrent beach lifeguards, plus 154 seasonal maintenance workers and 170 seasonal parking lot attendants.

Last year, more than 57.5 million people visited Los Angeles County beaches, an increase of one and three-quarter million over the previous year. Also in 1979, County beach lifeguards made 8900 rescues, 284 resuscitations, and 10,516 emergency medical aids. Those resuscitations, incidentally, were of people who would very likely have died without immediate aid.

Beach maintenance and lifeguard

operations are year-round responsibilities. Few people are aware of the impact winter storms have on our beaches or of the destruction they cause every year. Last winter's storms were particularly bad and their damage was severe. Buildings, walls along parking lots, the parking lots themselves, vehicles, lifeguard towers, and stations received major damage, to say nothing of the tremendous job involved in removing the storm debris. Landscaping and planted areas also had to be brought back into normal condition.

This work is being done now in addition to the normal maintenance needed to service 1264 acres of sand, parking lots for 9440 vehicles, 4 fishing piers, and 63 restrooms.

The steady influx of "new Americans" into Southern California from all corners of the world is strongly affecting maintenance and lifeguard operations. The newcomers are unaware of the hazards of ocean swimming in this area of the coast. Litter is also a problem.

(Continued on Next Page)

Health Insurance Premiums Revised

Revised premium rates for five County-sponsored health plan providers will take effect in August, and some employees may have to begin contributing toward their health insurance coverage, according to Herb Kaplan, Director of Personnel.

The premium changes will range from a decrease of 21 percent to an increase of 25 percent, and will affect subscribers of Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Kaiser, Ross-Loos and Maxicare.

In two cases—Kaiser and Maxicare family plans—increased rates are the result of premiums exceeding the \$108.58 County maximum contributions previously negotiated with employee unions, Kaplan said.

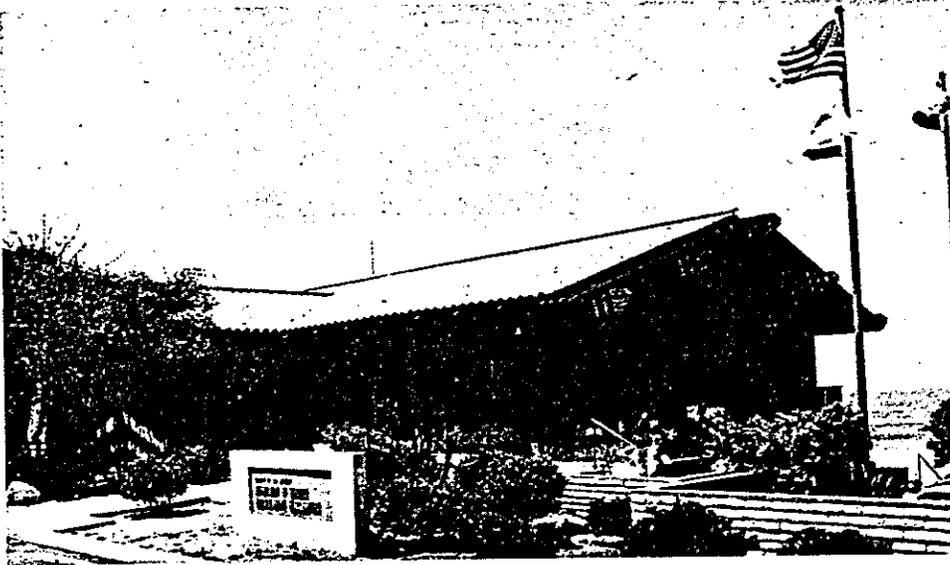
Employees enrolled in Kaiser with two or more dependents will now make contributions of \$9.35 per month, while employees in Maxicare with two or more dependents will contribute \$8.92 per month.

The increased deductions, along with the revised premium rates, will be reflected beginning with August 8 paychecks, but no action is required by employees because the changes will be made by the Auditor-Controller. These will be the first employee contributions to a County-sponsored health plan since August 1976, Kaplan noted.

Employees who carry the Blue Shield "Hospital Only" plan as a supplementary policy to a County-subsidized plan and who pay their own premiums will find their monthly deduction reduced by 21 percent. The reduction for the "employee only" rate will be \$1.93; for an "employee with one dependent," \$4.47; and for an "employee with two or more dependents," \$5.96.

Rates for all other County-sponsored plans will remain below the \$108.58 maximum County contributions, so employees will not be aware of any change, according to Kaplan.

The next open enrollment period for all County-sponsored health plans is scheduled for next February.



ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS—Operation of the vast County beach system is directed from this modern complex in Manhattan Beach which opened in 1972.

Between July 1978 and June 1979, a total of 3317.4 tons of trash were taken from County beaches and hauled to dumps. Fortunately, public awareness of the problem has been evidenced by the increased participation of citizens groups, homeowners associations, and environmental and youth groups who have donated time and effort to help County crews clean their local beaches. Beaches is placing more emphasis on citizen participation and is conducting awareness drives to abate the litter problem as well as striving to educate the public to the hazards of swimming in unfamiliar waters.

The department's concepts of ocean lifeguarding are constantly being reevaluated to better serve

the wide cross-section of the public enjoying County beaches. Emphasis is being placed on bilingual water safety instruction and education signs, and a return to the practice of school visitations by lifeguards to discuss ocean safety is now underway.

This is very important because with the energy crisis and the high cost of gasoline, it is anticipated that in the years to come more people than ever before will be vacationing at local beaches and spending more of their leisure time closer to home. So, if you have ever wondered what the lifeguards and the people at the Department of Beaches do during the winter months, we hope we have answered some of your questions.

