

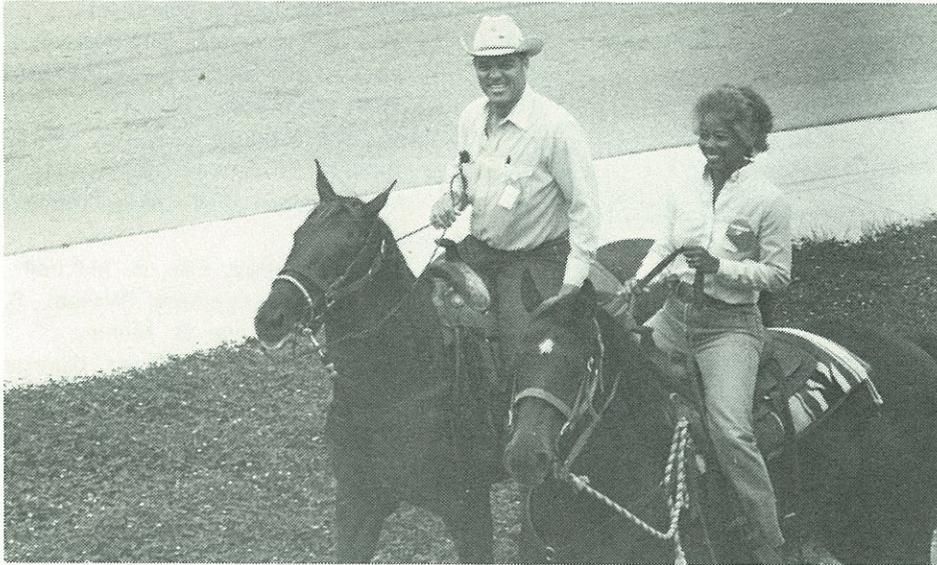


DIGEST

July 31, 1986

Volume 21 Number 13

Summer Fun In County Parks



Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum and Regional Park Superintendent Olene Ewell-Shipley inspect one of the many County equestrian and hiking trails.

Museum of Natural History

Museums play a crucial role in preserving the earth's cultural and natural heritage. The County's Natural History Museum ranks among the nation's most prominent and addresses the needs of a diverse public.



Dr. Craig Black, Director

In 1988, the Museum will celebrate
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A number of County operated recreational facilities provide a wide range of inexpensive and nearby summer activities. Local parks found in most communities offer limited activities, while larger regional parks offer a broad range of activities. Some of these regional recreational facilities are:

BALDWIN HILLS RECREATION AREA
4100 S. LaCienega Blvd., Los Angeles

This 315-acre facility has large open lawn areas, perfect for picnics; a 2.5-acre lake with fishing; and hiking trails, one of which crosses a small pond and leads to a ten-foot waterfall.

FRANK G. BONELLI REGIONAL PARK
120 Via Verde Park Road, San Dimas

One of the County's most popular recreational spots, Bonelli Park offers something for everyone. Puddingstone Reservoir (centrally located in the park) is a haven for boater, water skiers, and fishermen alike. On the South shore of the lake, swimmers can splash around in a beach-like atmosphere, under the supervision of County lifeguards. Exten-

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Greg Thompson Selected

Greg Thompson, who has five years of County service as a Recreation Therapist at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, was selected the June 1986 County Employee of the Month. A quadriplegic, Greg made his career choice after a 1977 accident in which he suffered spinal injuries. As treatment and rehabilitation permitted, Greg worked as a volunteer at Rancho, then entered Cal-State Long Beach and graduated with a degree in Recreation Therapy.

Assigned to the Spinal Cord injury Services Division at Rancho in 1982, Greg developed an innovative recreation therapy program for patients and a Quality In-Service Program to orient

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Greg Thompson, June 1986
Employee of the Month

Museum of Natural History

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Dr. Ralph Schreiber, Curator of the Ornithology Division stands with a beautiful specimen of the nearly extinct California Condor. This is just one of the Museum's collection of 103,000 bird specimens, the finest of which will be featured in its new Great Bird Hall.

its Diamond Jubilee marking the 75th anniversary of service to our community. To maintain the highest degree of excellence and to fulfill its responsibility as a major cultural resource center, the Museum concentrates on education and exhibition, collections, research, and publications.

Approximately one-half of the Exposition Park facility is devoted to public exhibition halls including 25 separate galleries — 20 for permanent installations and five dedicated to active ongoing, changing exhibits.

Visitors can see well-conceived dioramas in four large mammal halls. Three American history halls give a chronological view of cultural development from the colonial period through the early twentieth century. The California and Southwest History Hall presents the state's history from the Ice Age to the 1940's. The Gem and Mineral Hall includes the recently opened Alex Deutsch Gallery of Gemstones and Their Origins. Other important halls are the Antique Car Salon, the Pre-Columbian Hall, and an outstanding teaching gallery on marine life.

The Museum's educational programs are developed to augment the materials exhibited in its galleries and to increase the participant's understanding of the subject matter and enjoyment of the



Karen Himes, Lending Service Coordinator.

exhibit. Over 300 docents assist Museum education professionals in school and community group tours. For children and senior citizens who cannot come to the Museum, the Moveable Museum program, begun in 1982, brings a hands-on experience of the collections into classrooms, libraries, and community centers.

Research and Collections are jointly supervised by the Chief Curators for Earth Science, Life Sciences, and History under the direction of the Museum Director, Dr. Craig C. Black.

Take the time to roam through the Museum and you will learn about past cultures, complex human/environmental relationships, and possibly a key to our future.

Congratulations

Three veteran County employees, each with over 40 years of service are retiring. They are Blanche G. Dones, Senior Clerk, Sheriff's Department; Thomas Faulkner, Captain, Fire Department; and William E. Nerlich, M.D., LAC/USC Medical Center. On behalf of the many people who were helped by these skilled and capable employees, we express our "thanks" and best wishes for a happy retirement.

The following retirees with more than 30 years of service will be missed and we wish them well:

Assessor: Freddie B. Gates, Murray H. Turett

Chief Administrative Office: Tamako Moore

District Attorney: Ellie B. Mitchell

Facilities Management: William S. Albright, Jr., Eugene B. Manley

Fire: Phillip R. Carlton, George Ramage, Edward Watson

Health Services: Millard A. Campbell, Joan E. Hodgman, Victor G. Mikity, M.D.

Municipal Courts: Robert C. Lutz

Parks & Recreation: Jevto Vucetich

Probation: Lawrence H. Fischer

Public Works: George R. Taylor

Purchasing & Stores: George F. Dawkins

Registrar-Recorder: Inez Johnson

DPSS: Ruby R. Ramsey, Marilyn Slayton

Sheriff: Richard C. Poe

Superior Court/County Clerk: Grant Sharman

Best wishes are also extended to the following retirees with more than 25 years of service:

Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner: Arthur B. Bustamante

Facilities Management: John Pope, Hubert C. Whittler

Fire Dept.: Fred M. Hubbard Francis J. Smith

Health Services: Delma R. Love

DPSS: Thomas E. Hogan

Office of Education: Mary L. Lyons

Probation: Robert Martin, Alfred K. Tripodi

Public Works: Lester Pruett

Sheriff: David Lee Hicks

Superior Court/County Clerk: Beatrice A. Lord

Productivity Interns Conclude First Year



Standing L to R: Guillermo Valdes, James Taylor, Martin Merlotto, Jose Serra, Jeff Barrington, Cynthia Gonzales, Dad Samuels, Vivian Burge, Jay Greenstein, Kelley Clark, Barry Waite, Sylvia Martinez, Lynn Roknich, Alejandro Najera, Karen Luthart, Debbie McClain, Shafqat Mahmood, Veronica Polite, Talmadge Cobb, Augie Cruciotti, Scott Baxter.
Seated L to R: Jan Pollard, Chief, Management Systems Division; James C. Hankla, Chief Administrative Officer; John F. Shirey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Mike Jackson, Productivity Internship Program Coordinator.

The Los Angeles County/USC Productivity Internship Program concluded its first year in June.

This successful joint venture allows senior – and graduate – level interns in the fields of public administration, business management, and industrial engineering to apply classroom theory to Countywide productivity improvement programs.

According to James C. Hankla, Chief Administrative Officer, the program “has produced recommendations for potential cost savings and also developed future potential human resources for the County and the private sector.”

Ten graduate and senior students were originally recruited and assigned in May of 1985 to various County departments to provide administrative research. After spending the summer sorting, analyzing and evaluating over 24,000 cubic feet of records and 2,500 forms, the interns presented a list of recommendations in a final report to the Board of Supervisors.

The report focused on establishing a comprehensive forms and records management program in the Department of Beaches and Harbors and Facilities Management. Recommendations resulting from the studies produced potential savings of \$220,000.
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Greg Thompson

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new physicians to the Spinal Cord Injury Service. This program has become a model for other services at the Center. Greg's hard work and creative planning has greatly improved productivity.

Greg is a high-level performer and through his leadership and enthusiasm serves as an excellent example of what can be accomplished by the handicapped.

One area of his exceptional work performance is in the area of personal relations where he has distinguished himself by: coordinating the Annual Spinal Cord Injury Games; coaching the hospital's Wheelchair Basketball Team; coordinating the Annual L.A. Roadsters Car Show at Rancho Los Amigos which resulted in a \$2700 donation in 1984; regularly assisting the Nursing Education and other hospital departments and community agencies, universities, etc. as a lecturer. He was also given a hospital commendation for his participation in a White House Fellows Tour of the hospital.

Greg Thompson is proof that “Nice Guy's don't finish last but rather inspire others to be the best they can be.”

Why Retreat?

A weekend management retreat was recently held by the County Counsel's office as a step towards improving communications and exploring “better ways of doing things.”

County Counsel, DeWitt Clinton, and his management team guided by Edward C. Caprielian, Ph.D., explored ways to facilitate enhanced teamwork and provide an open forum for the sharing of ideas.

Prior to the retreat, Dr. Caprielian met with each manager and gathered input used to formulate the retreat's purpose, objectives and agenda.

The issues addressed included a review of department accomplishments and challenges; evaluation of the organizational structure and communication loops; evaluation of management team effectiveness; and determination of the next step – where to go from here.

As the retreat came to an end all participants agreed that a step towards effectiveness and departmental objectives had been taken. Focusing on that forward motion, follow-up sessions on strategic planning have already begun. Wonder why it was called a “Retreat?” It sounds more like a positive step forward to us!

Summer Fun . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sive trails and picnic areas can be found throughout the park's 1,975 acres. There is also an equestrian center, RV campground, and group camping areas. The water-theme park, "Raging Waters," is also located on the park grounds.

CASTAIC LAKE RECREATION AREA 32100 The Ridge Route Road, Castaic

Over 8,700 acres include two lakes which provide excellent fishing and water sports; numerous picnic areas as well as a food concession; and equestrian trails.

ERNEST E. DEBS COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

4235 Monterey Road, Los Angeles

Most of this 300-acre park includes hillsides covered with natural vegetation. Tree-shaded picnics are popular in two flat, turfed areas. A small lake offers fishing, and hikers are rewarded with great views from the hilltop.

SANTA FE DAM REGIONAL PARK 15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale

This 600-acre facility offers a number of recreation opportunities from picnicking and a 70-acre fishing, boating, and swimming lake to a nature center and a 400-acre nature preserve. There is also an equestrian assembly area with riding and hiking trails.

WHITTIER NARROWS REGIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA

823 Lexington-Gallatin Road, South El Monte

This 1,092-acre park features fishing, picnicking, children's play areas, overnight group camping, hiking and equestrian trails, ball diamonds, archery, skeet and trap shooting, as well as a model hobby area.

WILLOWBROOK RECREATION AREA 905 East El Segundo Blvd. L.A.

Picnic sites for families and larger groups, a children's play area, and open turf areas cover this 94-acre park in the Willowbrook community. Fishing is popular in two park lakes, but wading and swimming are not allowed.

In our July 15 issue, our unidentified Blood Donor was County employee, **Cynthia Acello**. Thanks to Shelli Weekes, For the information.



Take Time To Cool Off

In the Southland, the hottest summer months are August and September with the hottest time of the day between 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Whenever it is hot or humid, take the following preventive steps to guard against illness or discomfort due to high body temperatures:

- Drink lots of water.
- Wear light-colored and light-weight clothing and hat.
- Cool yourself off periodically, in the shade or an air-conditioned room.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Beware of alcoholic beverages and some medications.
- Do not take salt tablets.
- Try not to overexercise or overexert yourself.
- If you must do strenuous work, work in the cool of the day like early morning.

If heat disorders do strike, you can prevent serious harm by quickly recognizing and treating symptoms.



The three stages of heat illness are, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Be aware that if the first symptoms are not treated immediately, you will progress into the next more serious stage of heat illness, heat stroke.

Symptoms of heat cramps are painful muscle spasms of legs or arms and normal temperature. When these symptoms occur, immediately go to a cool place, loosen clothing, and drink water.

Heat exhaustion symptoms are dizziness, sweating, and cool skin sometimes accompanied by skin discoloration, normal temperature. With these symptoms, in addition to the actions taken for heat cramps, pour water or place ice packs over and fan the body.

Summer is definitely a time for fun but be aware of the summer sun's potential harm and "stay cool".

Productivity Interns

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In a second phase of the internship program, 20 USC interns were selected and assigned to projects in the Departments of Children's Services, Treasurer and Tax Collector, Probation, Forester and Fire Warden, and County Counsel. These interns also generated recommendations for comprehensive forms and records management programs along with eliminating unnecessary filing equipment and records, establishing photocopying policies and recovery of valuable office space. The potential estimated cost savings of their evaluations totaled \$268,620.

In addition to the County's hard-dollar savings and cost avoidance, the university has benefited from the creation of a new learning laboratory in which students can apply abstract classroom concepts to real-life situations.

As the Spring 1986 group of interns continue to conduct research and analytical studies, the program's coordinator is now reviewing application for Fall intern assignments. Interested? Call Mike Jackson, 974-1171.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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