



DIGEST

November 26, 1986

John Armour: A Pace-Setter



Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum and John M. Armour, October Employee of the Month.

John M. Armour, the October 1986 County Employee of the Month, is definitely a pace-setter and a go-getter!

In recent Board room ceremonies honoring John's selection, Board Chairman, Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum praised his performance as director of the County Employment Training Center in the South Central area, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). The center provides remedial education, job training, and job placement services to welfare recipients.

John's duty as a Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor II, includes responsibilities which require a high degree of organizational skill, imagination, and initiative. Under John Armour's innovative leadership, the center develops and markets products made by welfare recipients who are trained in work skills that will prepare them for employment in the community. Production of items and training take place in classroom/workshop settings where Los Angeles Unified School District teachers, under contract

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Farm Advisor Impacts County Residents

Based on the number of County employees on staff, the Farm Advisor Department is one of the County's smallest departments. But size is not always a measure of impact, and this department, through its various educational programs, makes a significant impact on County residents.

One of the best-known programs is the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program**, which teaches low-income residents about food shopping and preparation. The emphasis is on achieving nutritional adequacy within a limited budget. The program works with

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Master Food Preserver volunteers practice new skills during intensive training program sponsored by Farm Advisor Department's Home Economics program.

United Nations Honors Community Development Commission

The Community Development Commission (CDC) recently won three awards in the United Nations (UN) International Year of Shelter for the Homeless competition. The winning CDC programs deal with the homeless, housing revenue bond financing, and comprehensive assistance for low-income single parents.

JOINT HOUSING EFFORT

The Joint City/County Homeless Shelter project, which consists of a partnership between the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, and the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, received a certificate of special recognition.

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Dr. Benjamin F. Bobo (center), area manager for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, presents award to Charles B. Taylor and Edna Bruce, CDC.

John Armour

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to DPSS instruct welfare recipient trainees on how to repair or produce items such as furniture, sewn garments, and more recently, engraved signs. The Training Center conducts instructional classroom courses in Basic Education, English as-a-Second Language (ESL), Vocational Skills, beginning and advanced typing, industrial sewing, and furniture fabrication and repair.

In such a constantly changing environment, John exhibits a remarkable ability to get others to work as a team, locate and cultivate support for the center, and maintain and extend positive working relationships. All of this contributes to the success of the center, as measured by the placement of over 200 trainees in full-time jobs. Total production for the center in the last two fiscal years has exceeded \$200,000 in production value.

One of John's successful projects includes the establishment of sign-engraving production capabilities. Demand for the signs spread from one principal DPSS office to a number of County departments and has led to a significant production level.

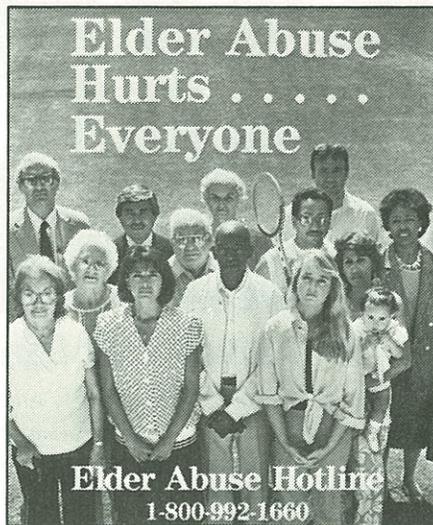
To accelerate job placements, John negotiated several changes in the basic classes provided by the school district and also set up a special job placement class for trainees as they approach job readiness. As the result of training in resume writing, interviewing skills on job retention, etc., the number of trainees placed in jobs doubled in the last three years. The efforts exerted by Mr. Armour benefit the center, the recipient and the community as individuals become self-sustaining, productive members of society.

Our hats are off to John Armour as he continues to lead the way!

ATTENTION

Members of Fire Fighters Local 1014

Premiums for your Health and Welfare Plan will increase effective with your December 15, 1986 paychecks. Premiums will exceed the County contribution. Therefore, subscribers of this plan will have a payroll deduction for the balance of their premium.



The Department of Public Social Services is currently distributing a poster which advertises Los Angeles County's new Elder Abuse Hotline. This 24-hour toll free number (1-800-922-1660) has been established to provide assistance to victims of elder abuse and other concerned citizens.

All public contact departments have been ordered by the Board of Supervisors to display the Elder Abuse Hotline poster. Nonpublic contact departments are encouraged to display the poster for the benefit of their employees.

For copies of the poster contact Bill MacFadden of DPSS' Adult Services Section at (818) 572-5753.

More Premium Changes

In an earlier issue, information was given on Kaiser and Maxicare health plans and Blue Cross PPO and APO dental plans annual premium revisions. We are now reporting the remaining annual premium changes.

Premium revisions in the Blue Shield PPO and CIGNA/Ross-Loos health plans will be reflected on the December 15, 1986 paychecks.

The revised premiums for the Blue Shield PPO health plan will exceed the maximum County contribution toward health insurance. Therefore, all Blue Shield PPO subscribers who receive this County contribution will have a payroll deduction for the balance of their premium. The County contribution will cover the CIGNA/Ross-Loos premium in full.

The premiums for PMI and Safeguard dental plans will remain the same in 1987.

If you have questions, contact your departmental personnel office.

Congratulations Retirees

We salute and appreciate the following retirees and hope they will enjoy their well deserved leisure time after more than 30 years of County service:

Children's Services: Beatrice A. Burks, Gertrude Forst

County Counsel: David D. Mix

Facilities Mgmt.: George J. Kruse, Bruce E. Palmer, Fritz J. Work

For. & Fire Wdn.: Clarence V. Wilkinson, Everett B. Millican

Health Services: Ida Ross, Tom Baldwin

Probation: Josh D. Carson, Norman E. Parham

Public Social Services: Naomi Bratcher, Ada Roberson

Public Works: Daniel Nash, Keith D. White

Sheriff: Charles A. Elliott, John Goetz, William H. Alley, Jr., Gerald F. Barisic, Donald Betkey, Louie F. Herrera, Lawrence S. Bertram

South Coast Air Quality Mgmt.: Irving Cherniak

Superior Court: Darlene E. Schempp

The following retirees who are leaving after more than 25 years of County service will be missed and we wish them well:

Assessor: Thomas G. Diffey, Toshiko Watanabe, Janet A. Brown

Children's Services: Rex Brannan Regan

Facilities Mgmt.: Robert Malbrough

Health Services: Gussie M. Davis, Harold I. McClaskey, M.D.

Probation: Augustus White, Jr.

Public Admin/Guard.: James T. Ellis

Public Social Services: Helen L. Stevenson

Public Works: Larry A. Cellucci

Sheriff: Donald E. Maben, Jr., Walter A. Sharpnack, Harlowe C. Jahelka, John J. Shaughnessy



Community garden organizers meet with Eddie Albert at community garden site in Lincoln Heights.

Farm Advisor Impacts County Residents

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groups and individuals, as well as with agencies, such as food banks and community centers, who serve low-income people.

The **Consumer Marketing Program** works with producers and distributors of fresh produce, helping them get a high-quality product to the consumer. Recently this program sponsored "A Summer Tasting" event which drew over 300 participants and introduced exotic, unusual produce to the restaurant and gourmet food industries.

Another program, the **Common Ground Garden Program**, teaches low-income community residents to grow some of their own fresh fruits and vegetables. A number of community gardens are operated throughout the County, with some jointly sponsored by the Farm Advisor, private businesses, and local public service agencies. One such project in Lincoln Heights has attracted the attention of actor Eddie Albert, an avid vegetable gardener, active in community affairs.

The Farm Advisor also sponsors the 4-H Youth Program with special emphasis on projects for urban youth. Other programs for community residents include the Home Economics and Public Service Programs, with special classes and training opportunities for gardeners, homemakers, and educators.

Functioning in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of California, this department

lives up to the heritage as the "Farm Advisor" to County agricultural interest groups. It provides service in the areas of agronomy and range management (primarily in the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley), and horticulture (Los Angeles County is still the largest producer of ornamental plants in the nation).

If you are interested in obtaining further information on these programs or services in general, call (213) 744-4851.



David Jacobsen, a former employee of the County of Los Angeles, is presented with a "welcome home" scroll by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn during festivities for the former hostage in Westminster, California. "Our entire nation was thrilled to learn of his release from captivity and we all join his family in welcoming him back to freedom!"

U.S. Savings Bonds: Change In Interest Rates

The Government recently announced the new U.S. Savings Bonds interest rate changes both in the semiannual and the guaranteed minimum rates. These changes, however, will have a minimal impact on the interest rate your Savings Bonds will earn.

Semiannual Interest Rates

Bonds can continue to earn interest for up to twenty-five years. The rate of return on your Savings Bonds is based on an **average** of the semiannual interest rates over the time the bond is held. For instance, a bond purchased in November, 1982 is currently earning interest at an average of nearly 9%. There is no limit to how high the interest can go, but the interest rate on your bonds will be determined by the market rates during the time a bond is held. The new semiannual rate for November 1, 1986 through April, 1987 is 6.06%, less than a 1% decline over the previous period.

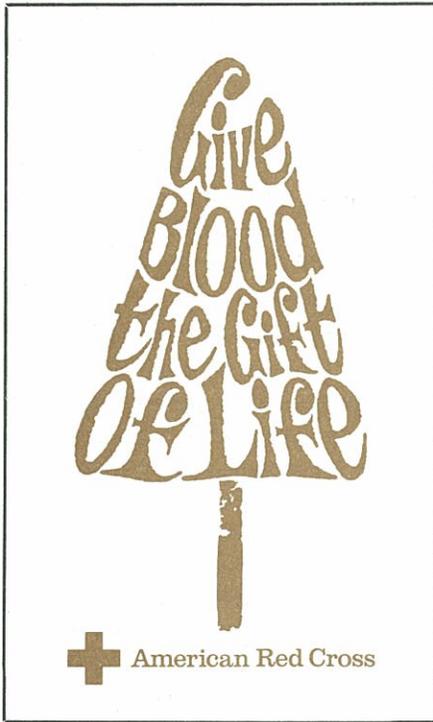
Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate

Recently the media also reported a change in the guaranteed minimum rate on bonds. This new 6% rate is merely a "safety net" and compares favorably with prevailing 5% to 5.5% rates obtained at many banks, thrifts, and money market funds. In other words, the only time the 6% rate would come into play is when bonds held a minimum of five years have an average return of less than 6%.

Bonds issued before November 1, 1986, will continue to have a guaranteed minimum of 7.5%.

Financial advisors recommend that investors consider security, liquidity, and yield. U.S. Savings Bonds have always been tops in security and liquidity and remain very attractive in yield even at the new rates. Remember U.S. Savings Bonds are also free from State income tax, and Federal income tax may be deferred until redemption, permitting interest to accumulate tax free until redemption.

With the continued State tax exemption making 6% Savings Bonds worth the same as 6.75% investments subject to the 11% California income tax, buying U.S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction is **still** a great way to save.



Community Development Commission

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This project focuses on providing housing for the homeless, and is currently developing plans for a shelter to be located in the downtown area of Los Angeles City.

PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

CDC's Project Self-Sufficiency won a Special Merit Award for coordinating housing, transportation, child care, job training and placement for low-income single parents trying to get off welfare and become self-sufficient.

In addition to its project management responsibilities, the CDC raised money from a variety of sources to support the project.

Three community-based organizations were chosen by the CDC to operate the program: Watts Labor Community Action Committee, Chicana Service Action Center, and Hacienda-LaPuente Unified School Districts' Valley Adult Community Schools.

PIPELINE FINANCING

CDC's pipeline approach to financing multi-family housing also received a certificate of special recognition. Under this program, construction projects of less than \$10 million are approved through a lender and pooled with other small projects for funding. As a result, the County has helped create 5,354 rental units of which 2,345 are affordable by low-income families.

The United Nations General Assembly has officially designated 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in recognition of the problems of people who are homeless or who live in sub-standard housing.

December — Blood Donor Month

December is Blood Donor Month and County employees are asked to take an hour out of their busy day to donate blood. Over 1500 units are needed every day to meet our hospital's needs; and during the holiday season, the blood supply is seldom sufficient.

For your convenience, there are 13 County Blood Drives scheduled throughout various departments. Or you may wish to donate at one of our County hospitals with donor facilities: LAC/USC

Medical Center, Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center. or Harbor/UCLA Medical Center.

If you are interested in donating blood this holiday season, call your departmental Blood Donor Coordinator or Countywide Blood Donor Coordinator, Judie Lecesne, at (213) 974-1779.

Please share the gift of your good health this holiday season. There is no greater gift that you can give.

Calendar of Events

MUSEUM OF ART

- Needlework Exhibition From Dixon and Horowitz Collections. Over 160 outstanding examples of needlework from the 17th to early 20th century will be on display beginning December 1.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

- 15th Annual American Indian Festival showcases the rich, cultural heritage of Native Americans with art exhibits, films, dances and native foods. December 5, 6, 7. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- "The Far Side of Science": - an exhibit of almost 600 cartoons with natural history themes by nationally syndicated columnist Gary Larson. For information call (213) 744-3466.



American Indian Festival will include traditional Hoop Dance by Inter-tribal Dancer.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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