



# DIGEST

FEBRUARY 5, 1988

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



*Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (seated) meets with Dr. Leroy Weekes and Congressman Augustus Hawkins, during a celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**T**he Board of Supervisors, on a motion by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, declared the week of January 8 through 18, 1988 and the appropriate week each subsequent year thereafter, as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Week."

In his motion, Supervisor Hahn urged all County residents to reflect and act upon the principles for which Dr. King stands as a national symbol.

In his statement, Supervisor Hahn wrote: "The tenets of justice, equality, peace, and freedom espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are the concern of all Americans.

"The County of Los Angeles has a multicultural, multiracial, and multireligious population that represents greater diversity than any other place in the world.

"This diversity provides an opportunity to give significant meaning to the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the County.

"This opportunity also paves the way for positive in-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## A Positive Self-Image Makes a Difference

In assuming the 1988 Chairmanship of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Deane Dana acknowledged that the first step in enhancing the image of the County begins with enhancing employee self-image.

Supervisor Dana stressed the importance of courteous employee responses to constituent inquiries as a major contributor to a good public image.

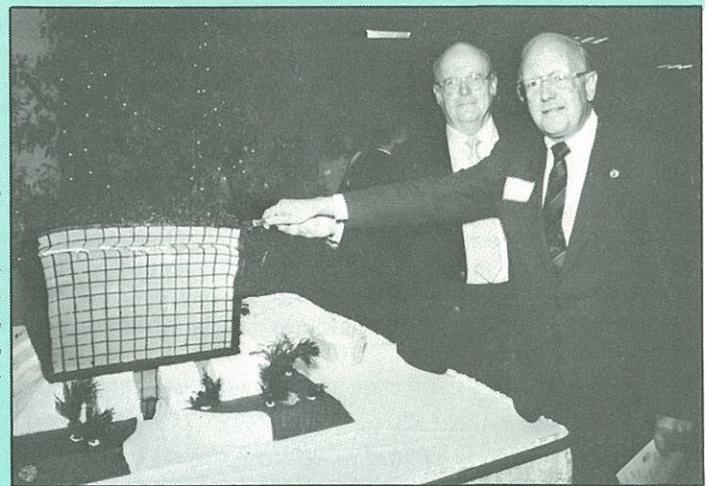
Focusing on this message, each of us becomes increasingly aware of the valuable part we play on the County team.

The quality of our service to the public is clearly dependent on our job performance. It is our responsibility to perform our jobs in a professional manner exhibiting knowledge, skill, and competence.

We need to remember that quality of service is not only providing factual information or specific action, but the delivery of service with confident, supportive, and understanding attitude.

Maintaining a positive self-image, a strong sense of County pride, and pride in one's work will surely make 1988 a productive and successful year!

*Chief Administrative Officer Richard B. Dixon helps Department of Public Works Director, Tom Tidemanson, cut cake to celebrate the move to Alhambra headquarters facility.*



## Department of Public Works Hosts 'Open House'

Recently, the Department of Public Works (DPW) hosted an "Open House" at its new headquarters facility located at 900 South Fremont Avenue in Alhambra.

Over 2,500 guests, including employees and their families, as well as various friends of the Department, were able to enjoy pleasant conversation and stroll through designated floors of the building on self-guided tours.

The move to Alhambra, which began in October 1987 and should be completed by summer 1988, signifies the final step in the consolidation of the former County Road

Department, a portion of the Department of County Engineer-Facilities, and the County Flood Control District.

With this single headquarters location, DPW can offer one-stop Public Works office services, such as building and safety, land development, permits, mapping, and survey to the over eight million residents of Los Angeles County. For employees, in-house communication is enhanced, morale is improved, and productivity is increased due to improved work flow and decreased travel time.

## Direct Deposit Program to your Advantage

Currently, a large majority of County employees participate in the Direct Deposit Program. They are paid twice a month and enjoy the convenience and safety of having their net pay automatically deposited, on or before the 15th and the 30th, directly into their checking or savings account at the bank, savings and loan, or credit union of their choice.

The Auditor-Controller makes the automatic deposits and the employee's funds are available for withdrawal without delay the morning of every payday. If the 15th or 30th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the payday shall be the preceding regular workday. Employees also receive the customary

paycheck stub showing detailed earnings and deductions. Unlike these "direct depositors", nonparticipants are paid once a month.

Among the attractive advantages of participating in the Direct Deposit Program are proven reliability, convenience, and safety.

Consider the following:

- No standing in line.
- Money on deposit before checks are distributed.
- No problems when absent from office on payday.

If you are not already a direct depositor, please contact your payroll office for further information and details about this program.

# Talk

## To Your Doctor

Most of us assume that if we have a medical problem, we can see a doctor and get help. But doctors are like detectives: they need clues and cooperation to help them pinpoint the condition and provide proper treatment. By effectively communicating with your doctor, you can help yourself get the best medical care possible.

How many times have you left your doctor's office and thought, "Darn! I forgot to ask about that little pain!" Or did you just tell your doctor that your stomach hurts, without going into specifics about when the pain started and its location? Your doctor needs to know all of your symptoms and concerns.

There are steps you can take to help your doctor help you:

**1.** Write down questions, concerns, and symptoms before your appointment: make a checklist of your medical concerns. If everything is written down, you won't forget to mention them to

your doctor. The more information your doctor has, the better able the doctor will be to help you in a professional, comprehensive manner.

**2.** Ask your doctor to explain everything you don't understand. Your doctor may assume that you understood everything that was covered when actually you may not. If your doctor didn't tell you what your problem might be, feel free to ask.

**3.** Before you leave the doctor's office, make sure you both understand what will happen next. If you have discussed a variety of treatments, it's important to clarify exactly what is expected. Whether you're supposed to call for test results, make another appointment, finish your medication, or call only if there's no improvement, make sure you know what to do.

Good communication is the key to helping your doctor help you. The more information you can offer, the better able your doctor will be to help you effectively.

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honored

*(Continued from page 1)*

tergroup understanding, bringing us closer to realizing the great dream of Dr. King.

"The Board of Supervisors recognizes that this national holiday is a time which affords all our residents the opportunity to come together in a spirit of mutual respect and civic harmony."

Supervisor Hahn, a long-time personal friend of the late and great civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, built the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital, at 12021 Wilmington Avenue, in honor of this man of peace.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital has served over two million citizens and has been the training facility of hundreds of doctors and nurses, according to Supervisor Hahn.

*"The County of Los Angeles has a multicultural, multiracial, and multireligious population that represents greater diversity than any other place in the world."*

## Congratulations Retirees

With over 40 years of service, Phyllis E. Gorrell leads the list of retirees this month and certainly has earned our special congratulations and warm wishes. She was a Senior Systems Aid in the Data Processing Department and was commended for her excellent skills in providing support to the department's technical staff.

We also salute and appreciate the following retirees who are leaving after more than 30 years of service:

**District Attorney:** James D. McMullen, Elizabeth Means

**Exec. Office-Superior Ct./County Clk:** Edna Scott

**Facilities Management:** Alfred T. Lopez, Herbert M. Motonaga

**Forester and Fire Warden:** Hector R. Apodaca, Hamilton M. Freeman, William Fullmer, Arnold A. Pribble

**Health Services:** Jacqueline Cook, Stephen D. Magro, Margaret C. Pham, William Strudler, Jimmie L. Wilson

**Mental Health/Public Guardian:** Ray E. Lang

**Probation:** Ronald R. Ortmann, Rosslyn R. Range

**Public Social Services:** Frederick D. Alexander, Vera G. Turner, Peter C. Young

**Public Works:** Frederick Fukutaki, Mario B. Martinez, James W. Schonfeldt, Tatsuo Toyota

**Registrar-Recorder:** Laura L. Concha

**Rio Hondo Court:** Peggy L. Karns

**Sheriff:** Kenneth Cable, James W. Pierce, Charles W. Vaughn, James C. Walgren, Victor J. Cavallero, Raymond Schartan

**Superior Court:** James A. Bragg

The following retirees with more than 25 years of service also have our best wishes:

**Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner:** Edward W. Murrell

**Children's Services:** Bonnie J. Farley

**Forester and Fire Warden:** Gale E. Molyneux

**Health Services:** Robert Estavillo, Ruth A. Keys, Dorothy Kobayashi, Fanny Nusinson, Robert S. Rosen, Roma Snavely, Richard Sneed

**Parks & Recreation:** John B. McLeod, Arthur Lomeli

**Probation:** Charles H. Emery, Gordon Hillberg, John J. Klein

**Public Social Services:** Dorothy Cissna, Ivan F. Mull, Velma N. Warren, Anita Young, Arnaldo Martinez

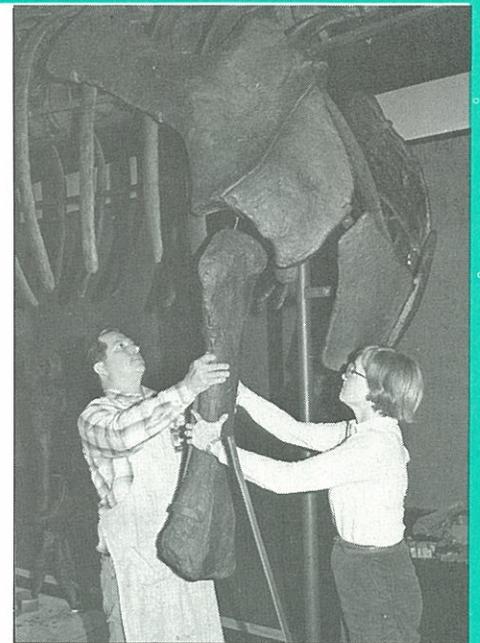
**Regional Planning:** Jack T. Garretson

**Sheriff:** Robert Mead, Richard R. Rogers, Frank J. Hartog, Dale J. Peroutka

**Treasurer & Tax Collector:** John L. Coplen, Angeleen Motes



*Volunteers working in hospital gift shop lend a helping hand.*



*Volunteers assist in the assembly of skeletal display.*



*Robert Frederick Ives and wife, Helen, volunteer at information counter to direct visitors.*



*Volunteer Candy Johnson is assigned to hospital switchboard.*

## Volunteer Involvement Opportunities

Department of Consumer Affairs is seeking volunteers to serve in the Civic Center office and its branch location in El Monte. Applicants accepted will undergo training covering a variety of consumer subjects including auto repair regulations, credit practices, landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities. They will also learn how the department helps consumers deal with problems in the marketplace.

For further information, contact Cathy Mikuni, Coordinator of Volunteers at (213) 974-9740.

The Natural History Museum has two programs in great need of volunteers. Members of the Speaker's Bureau talk to community groups about the museum's programs, exhibits, and resources. A Senior Outreach Program gives volunteers an opportunity to take participants on an "armchair" nature walk by use of a video and items from the museum's collections.

To share your public speaking ability, interest in the outdoors, or for more information, call Isabel Rosenbaum at (213) 744-

3341.

Superior Court needs volunteers to make on-site friendly visits to persons under Court-declared conservatorships. Though their economic and physical needs are being met, often these people have no relative or caring person for social interaction. If you would like to add a little sunshine to the life of an elderly person, please call Sheila Pearce at (213) 974-5142 or Sandra Taylor at (213) 974-6568.

Olive View Medical Center, Sylmar welcomes energetic volunteers of all ages to lend a hand as clerks in the beautiful new Auxiliary Gift Shop, or as Spanish interpreters in outpatient clinics or the Emergency Room, library and clerical aides in various hospital departments, couriers for the new Surgery and Obstetric waiting areas, PEDS Clinic "grannies" and other playroom supervisors. Junior volunteer (age 14-18) applications will be accepted beginning June 1, 1988. For information, call Norma Jacobs at (818) 364-3074.

## Changes in Purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds

The U.S. Treasury Department announced recently that as of February 1, 1988, they will no longer offer \$50 or \$75 U.S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction. This means that the present minimum monthly payroll deduction of \$6.25 which allowed the purchase of one \$50 bond (at a cost of \$25) every four months will no longer be possible.

An exception to the new rule is the current purchase of bonds in \$50 or \$75 denominations. These employees will continue to receive them unless they cancel their cur-

rent allotment.

After February 1, 1988, the smallest denomination bond available through payroll deduction will be a \$100 bond. The purchase price is \$50, one-half the face value. The new minimum monthly deduction for a \$100 Savings Bond will be \$12.50 and will result in one \$100 bond being issued every four months. Other deduction options will also be available, but none will be lower than \$12.50 per month.

If you prefer to purchase the smaller

denomination Savings Bonds, you may do so at your local bank, the Los Angeles Federal Reserve Bank, or during the 1988 U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign through the One-Time-Only purchase option.

Remember, U.S. Savings Bonds are still the "Great American Investment," currently earning 7.17 percent interest. Today, more people own Savings Bonds than any other security in America.

## Natural History Museum



"Gyrfalcon Portrait" painted in gouache by Hendrik J. Slijper

## Birds in Art Exhibit

A colorful array of birds will grace the museum's Director's Gallery from January 24 through March 6, 1988, when the **BIRDS IN ART** exhibit goes on display.

Featuring the best art on bird themes by more than 55 of the world's most talented artists, the exhibition includes paintings and sculptures in a variety of media, from watercolor to walnut carvings.

The annual Birds In Art exhibits have developed into a highly respected international art event and have traveled as far afield as Beijing, China.

## Minority Women's Conference Scheduled

The County Human Relations Commission will sponsor the fourth annual Women's Conference on Friday, March 4, 1988 in the Student Union at California State University, Los Angeles.

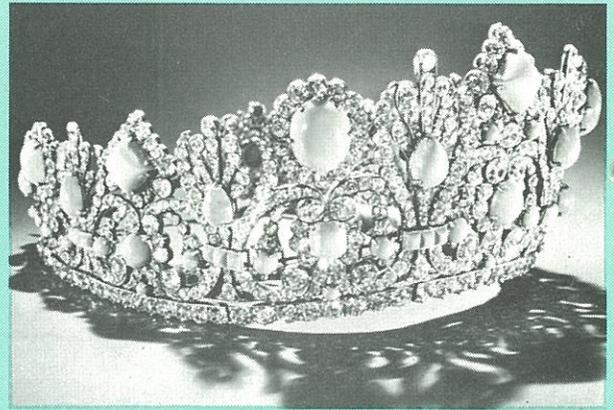
With a theme of "Inequality In Employment: Removing Racial and Sexual Barriers," the conference coincides with Women's History Week.

Job trends in technology, minority women in business, employment laws, and rights and remedies are topics to be covered at the conference.

A panel of experts will speak on pay equity, pregnancy discrimination, and sexual harassment. They will also identify strategies to overcome sexual and racial barriers.

For more information, contact Reva M. Trevino, at (213) 974-7611.

The Empress Marie Louise diadem is set with 79 turquoises and 1015 antique cut diamonds and was commissioned by Napoleon in 1810 as his wedding gift to his bride, the Austrian Princess Marie Louise. As the second in a series, it will be on view from March 14 to June 12, 1988.



## Museum Celebrates Diamond Jubilee with Famous Diamonds of the World

The Natural History Museum celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year with dazzle. A spectacular selection of world-famous diamonds from the Smithsonian's collection are now on display in the museum's gem vault (900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles). The jewels will change every three months throughout the anniversary year.

The museum kicks off its diamond display with the opulent Victoria-Transvaal Necklace, featuring a stunning 67.89-carat stone surrounded by 108 smaller diamonds. Because the Victoria-Transvaal was featured in several Hollywood films, it is an especially appropriate accompaniment to the museum's

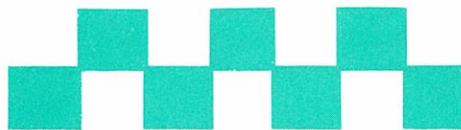
**Hollywood: Legend and Reality** exhibit, which is continuing through February 22, 1988.

No less impressive than the Victoria-Transvaal, the other famous diamonds scheduled for display in the gem vault include:

Empress Marie Louise Diadem  
Napoleon Necklace  
March 14-June 12, 1988

Oppenheimer Diamond  
Portuguese Diamond  
June 13-Sept. 11, 1988

Eugenie Blue  
Marie Antoinette Earrings  
Sept. 12-December 31, 1988



A Reminder

## 2nd Annual County Employees

# Chess

## Championship Two Divisions — Open and Novice

Starts Wednesday, February 24, 1988, at 6 p.m. in the Public Works cafeteria, 900 South Fremont Avenue. Alhambra.

6 Rounds Swiss System  
Register Now — \$3 Registration Fee  
Trophies and Prizes

For information, call Department of Public Works staff at the following telephone numbers:

Eddie Concepcion	(818) 458-3925
Fred Ureta	(818) 458-7094
Brian Scanlon	(213) 738-2534
Joe Milanez	(213) 226-8441

County of Los Angeles

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