



DIGEST

NOVEMBER 15, 1988

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



(L. to R.) Aviva K. Bobb, Supervising Judge, Van Nuys Branch Court; Richard A. Paez, Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Judicial District; Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman; State Senator Alan Robbins; Malcolm M. Lucas, Chief Justice of California; and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

Edelman And Antonovich Dedicate New Van Nuys Municipal Courthouse

Los Angeles County Supervisors Ed Edelman and Michael Antonovich dedicated the new 11-story Van Nuys Municipal Courthouse at a special ceremony Friday, October 14.

"This \$52 million building houses 23 municipal courtrooms, as well as hearing rooms, attorney conference rooms, jury assembly and deliberation rooms," Supervisor Edelman said.

"Completion of this 280,000-square-foot courthouse will help ease severe trial overcrowding at the Van Nuys judicial complex, which is the busiest municipal court outside

the downtown area."

One unique feature of the new courthouse at 14400 Erwin Street Mall, Van Nuys, is that it was not constructed with any taxpayer money.

Instead, the financing came from the Courthouse Construction Fund which gets its money from the penalty assessments added to fines imposed for traffic tickets and criminal offenses.

Expansion of the Van Nuys Municipal Court began in April, 1985, when new modular courtrooms were installed at the judicial

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Breakfast Honors Medical Center Building Crafts Workers

On October 13, 1988, the LAC/USC Medical Center held a special breakfast to honor the more than 150 workers and their supervisors who were responsible for the renovation work required to open the County's first employee child care center. The County's Chief Administrative Officer, Richard B. Dixon, was a special guest at the breakfast.



Ted Holland, LAC/USC Medical Center Administrator, Plant Management and Barbara Schutte, President, Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles, Inc. (contractor for the Child Care Center).

These workers were responsible for transforming a trailer and a parking lot into an attractive center with a landscaped play yard. The caring and creativity of the workers contributed greatly to the success of the project. The workers often made decisions and suggestions that led to improvements on the original plans. For example, it was the workers who suggested that all the corners on shelves should be rounded to avoid injuries to the children. The workers designed and built an ingenious cart used to transport the children's cots each day. The sheet metal shop designed and built a slide for the children. All the workmanship was of the highest quality. Much of the work involved tasks never done before such as installing tiny toilets only ten inches off the ground.

The County extends a heartfelt thank you to these many workers, their supervisors and managers — the painters, carpenters, plumbers, masons, sheet metal workers, electricians, steam fitters and refrigeration workers from the LAC/USC Medical Center and the slurry crew from the Department of Public Works. Our beautiful employee child care center would not have become a reality without these fine workers. Thanks for a job well done!



County Employees Serve Meals To Skid Row Homeless
Erwin Thompson, one of many "Friends Serving Friends." (See story inside.)

Boys Republic Della Robbia Program



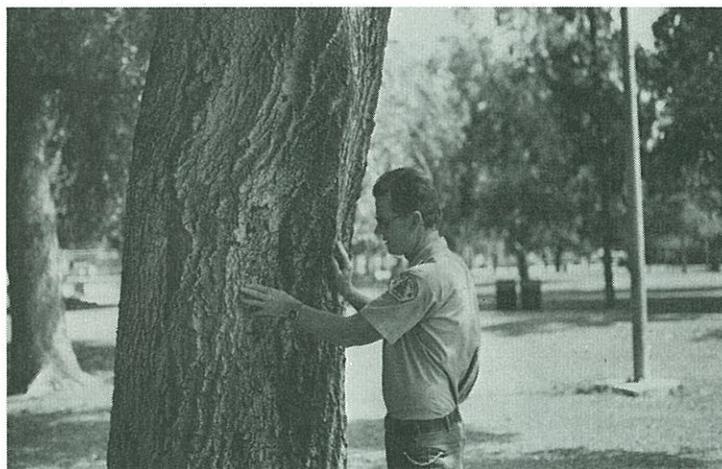
Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum accepts a huge, festive all-natural wreath from a proud Boys Republic representative.

Each year, work parties from Boys Republic gather the natural materials needed to hand-fashion the distinctive Della Robbia Christmas wreaths, like the one annually presented to the Board of Supervisors. The design is derived from the richly-modeled majolica ceramics made by the famed Della Robbia

family in Florence during the 15th century. These natural elaborately decorated wreaths are made and shipped between late November and early December to recipients in every state in the Union and a dozen foreign countries, an international symbol of Boys Republic. A Della Robbia wreath has hung in the White House each year since the days of Calvin Coolidge.

The program, which originated in 1924, is a self-help endeavor of Boys Republic, the non-profit home and school for disadvantaged boys. All net proceeds are used to fund the delinquency prevention programs of the school. The Della Robbia and other self-help programs, including a large working farm at Chino, enable the boys to earn enough money to defray about one third of the budget of Boys Republic, resulting in a direct savings to local governments who use Boys Republic to place homeless boys and wards of the court.

Anyone interested in the Boys Republic Della Robbia program should telephone (213) 259-3456, (818) 964-2391 or (714) 623-1217, or write to Boys Republic, Chino, CA 91709.



Deputy Forester Carl Fisher of the County Fire Department inspects an oak tree for insects and disease pursuant to the county's Oak Tree Ordinance.

County Ordinance Protects Oak Trees

Recent passage of the revised Oak Tree County Ordinance and publication of the "Oak Trees: Care and Maintenance" guide, were both motivated by the need to help preserve oak trees as a natural resource for future generations.

The Ordinance was established to recognize oak trees as significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological resources. It applies to all unincorporated areas of the County, and states that a person shall not cut, destroy, remove, relocate, inflict damage, or encroach into the protected zone of any tree of the oak tree genus without first obtaining a permit.

The publication was developed and produced by the Department of Forester and Fire Warden specifically to support the ordinance and protect this threatened plant heritage. It offers practical guidelines for the preservation and continued health of oak trees in the

residential landscape.

For more information, or a copy of "Oak Trees: Care and Maintenance", call the Forester Fire Warden (213) 267-2481. For more information on the Oak Tree Permit, call the Department of Regional Planning at (213) 974-6401.

Van Nuys Courthouse Dedicated

(Continued from page 1)

complex. Completion of the modular courtrooms cleared the way for demolition of the old courthouse and the beginning of construction of the new court building during the winter of 1986.

The architect for the new courthouse was Daniel L. Dworsky and Associates. The building was constructed by the Tutor-Saliba Corporation.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

For a job well done, we congratulate and praise the following employees who are retiring after more than 30 years of County service:

Agricultural Commission:

Monroe D. Polk

Assessor: Herbert C. Shattuck

Children's Services: Fred R. Beg, Millie J. Bunkley, Gordonnel Kennedy

Community & Senior Citizens Services: Domingo Delgado

County Clerk: Jerrell A. Stephens
Facilities Management: Matsu Matsuo, Bob Harmon

Fire Department: Kay R. Trout, Arnold A. Pribble

Forester & Fire Warden: John W. Englund, Gary Button

Health Services: Alice Courseault, Bobbye Felder, Richard E. Vargas

Public Social Services: Sara M. Erickson

Public Works: Eugene A. Gagne, Samson Jacobs

Sheriff: Ronald L. Tindel, Severeo Tolfa, Raymond D. Lloyd, Robert L. Wood

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

Assessor: Thomas A. Shipman

Children's Services: Ray A. Steinfeld

Data Processing: Edwin Lyle Pippenger

District Attorney: E. Raymond Hiles, Sherwin D. Podolsky

Facilities Management: Edgar Brown, Robert B. Edwards, Eddie L. Walker, Sr.

Fire Department: Phillip R. Carlton, Lavale T. Carter

Forester and Fire Warden: Joseph A. Spendlove, James E. Stallings

Health Services: Donna H. Solin

Mental Health: George L. Malory, M.D.

Municipal Court: Consuelo H. Guterrez

Public Social Services: George E. Denny, Albert Gonzales, Mary Lashbrook, Kay Ann Cones

Purchasing & Stores: Carolyn Collins

Sheriff: Armando Carrillo, Jack R. Fueglein, Cecelia M. Kienast, James E. Craig, Jerald V. Olsen

Dispute Settlement Service Now Available

The County now offers a fast, convenient and free alternative to the overcrowded, time-consuming process of resolving disagreements through the courts.

Dispute Settlement Service, administered by the Consumer Affairs Department, is designed to resolve most conflicts between consumers and businesses, renters and property owners, businesses and vendors, or neighbors – without the parties going to court. The service does not handle cases involving criminal acts, malpractice nor family law, including divorce.

Funded by the County of Los Angeles Dispute Resolution Program Special Fund, this mediation and conciliation service is offered free of charge, at a time and location convenient to the disputing parties. A mediator will help both parties find an agreeable solution. On those rare occasions when a solution can't be reached, participants can still use the court to settle their problem.

For more information, to help you decide if mediation will work for you, call the Dispute

Settlement Service at (213) 974-0825. The main office is at the Department of Consumer Affairs, Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Room B-96 in Los Angeles, or, you may call or visit one of the following branch offices:

East L.A. Service Center
(213) 260-2893 or 260-2882
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday



Evelyn Stein, Program Administrator

Florence/Firestone Service Center
(213) 586-6508 or 586-6509
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Inglewood Courthouse
(213) 419-5165
Tuesday Only 8:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Lancaster (Library)
(805) 948-5030
Friday Only 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Service Center
(818) 575-5425 or 575-5426
Monday, Thursday, Friday

South Bay/Lomita Center
(213) 325-1035
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Valencia Courthouse
(805) 253-7328
Thursday Only

Van Nuys
(818) 901-3829 or 901-3820
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Coro Fellows Placed As County Interns

The Coro Foundation, a philanthropic organization which supports programs to develop individuals for leadership roles in the public sector, recently placed two Coro Fellows. Andrea Lynn Margolis and Thomas Patrick Riley were interns with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) for a four-week period, in order to observe local government and understand public concern.

At the end of the internship, an oral presentation, based on their observations of the effectiveness of the organizational structure, was given to a large audience which included mid and upper level DPSS management, ten Coro Fellows assigned to placements in Southern California, and two Coro staff members.

The Coro Fellows were impressed by the size and complexity of the DPSS organization, the large caseloads, and vast sums of money the department is charged with administering. They indicated the department was doing an excellent job in carrying out the departmental mission with the limited number of staffing and financial resources available. They made the point that DPSS managers would also do well in private industry since they are so conscientious in making sure available funds are well spent.



(L. to R.) Charles R. Ventura, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) shown introducing Coro Fellows Andrea Lynn Margolis and Thomas Patrick Riley to departmental staff. Also shown are Ron Kuramoto and Alex Hartley representing the Coro Foundation.

The Coro Fellows found morale within the department to be excellent. They were also impressed with many of the programs in the department, such as fraud prevention, quality control and media. In addition, they stressed the importance of the productivity improvement effort currently underway and commended the Productivity Investment Fund process which provides seed money for innovative projects.

Conversely, they identified some areas of weakness, such as the tight fiscal constraints imposed on the department which cause under staffing and excessive caseloads. Also identified was the need for better cooperation between the various governmental agencies dealing with social problems in their overlapping jurisdictions. The legal action between the City of Los Angeles and the County regarding the homeless problem was used as an example.

Everyone said the placement provided a positive experience for all.

County Employees Serve Meals To Skid Row Homeless

On a brisk October 16 Sunday morning, County employees and Brotherhood Crusade staff began to gather for a most worthy Community Support Program project. Registration was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., but some enthusiastic volunteers were present as early as 7:30 a.m. ! The purpose was to serve meals to approximately 3,000 homeless skid row residents.

A vacant lot on the corner of Winston Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, was the site for the "Friends Serving Friends" event. County volunteers decorated the area with Brotherhood Crusade balloons and a large public announcement banner.

Approximately 210 volunteers representing over 30 County departments enthusiastically

Have A Happy
Thanksgiving



Sistine Chapel Choir Will Perform In Los Angeles

By special permission from the Vatican, the Sistine Chapel Choir will perform on January 31, 1989, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at 8 p.m. It is a 50 member choir which includes 24 boys. It has taken 10 years to obtain approval for this limited West Coast tour, performing in selected major cities.

The directors of today's Sistine Chapel Choir have traditionally excelled as conductors, singers, and composers. Monsignor Domenico Bartolucci was chosen the choir's Permanent Maestro Director by Pope Pius XII in 1956.

Tickets will be available starting November 28, 1988 at the Music Center Box Office, and all Ticketmaster outlets. Charge by Phone (213) 480-3232 or (714) 740-2000.

served chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, bread, cake and soda or milk to approximately 3,000 skid row residents. The volunteers also frosted and decorated a specially prepared huge cake for the homeless. The skid row handicapped individuals and children were also seated and served by the volunteers.

The mood was orderly and festive with no negative incidents occurring. The skid row residents were overwhelmed by the friendly attitudes, hospitality, and quick service. At day's end, the County employee volunteers and the Brotherhood Crusade staff agreed that it was a very rewarding experience for all involved.

Want To Try Something New?

Natural History Museum –
900 Exposition Boulevard; Los Angeles

Museum model-maker Joe Cocks will teach scrimshaw techniques on four Thursday evenings – November 10 and 17 and December 1 and 8, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The craft, popularized by 19th century sailors involves engraving on whale bone, ivory and wood. No prior artistic experience is necessary.

Using the Japanese art of origami to create holiday decorations will be taught by Louise Cooper, a demonstrator at the museum's annual Folk Art Festival on Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. She will teach participants to make animals, angels and other objects out of paper for use as decorations or special holiday presents.

The growth of civilization from its beginnings to 1500 B.C. in Mesopotamia, the Levant and Egypt will be explored in Monday evening classes from November 14 through December 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor Jay Bisno of the museum's Anthropology Section has conducted archae-

ological fieldwork in the United States and the Near East.

For more information on any of these classes, call (213) 744-3534.

Many employees have phoned their disappointment at missing the opera. We try to alert you in advance of special events which are discounted or where seats to an event may be hard to get due to popularity. Here are holiday activities for which early arrangements are encouraged:

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion –
135 North Grand Avenue; Los Angeles

Join 3,200 voices in the Ninth Annual Sing-Along, the area's largest and most thrilling performance of Handel's beloved "Messiah". Tuesday and Wednesday, December 13 and 14 at 8 p.m.

With your entire family, join the Master Chorale, the Sinfonia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus and special celebrity guests for an evening of joyous holiday music and cheer Saturday (matinee) and Sunday (7 p.m.) December 17 and 18.

For more information, call (213) 972-7211.

Trying To Find A Lost Pet?

Suddenly, a pet "that never leaves home" has disappeared. It can happen in an instant and finding your pet can be a frustrating experience.

However, 976-APET is now operative with computers on the scene. This innovative system implemented by the County Animal Control Center ties lost pet information from all six Los Angeles County Animal Care Centers and other Animal Shelters into one central database.

By calling 976-APET you are given locations and impound numbers of pets matching the description of your lost pet. But BEFORE you call, you should know:

- A touch-tone telephone is necessary.
- You *must know* the five digit zip code of the *area where your pet was lost!!!*
- There is a \$2.00 charge per call in addition to toll charges; if any. The charge will be added to your telephone bill.
- Have a pencil and paper ready to receive lost pet information.

The system is simple to work.

- You call 976-APET (no area code is necessary).
- Listen carefully! You will be asked questions regarding your lost pet.
- Respond to these questions using your touch-tone phone.
- With the information you provide, the computer will search all lost pet information.
- You will be given shelter locations and impound numbers of pets matching the description of your lost pet.
- Then it's up to you to visit the shelters in person to see if your pet is there.

The next time your pet leaves the house without you, find help just a touch-tone phone call away. Remember, if 976-APET does *not* locate your pet, you should call or visit your local Animal Shelters every few days. Also, protect your pet by keeping an identification tag on him/her at all times, securing your property, and obeying the leash law and licensing requirements.

This service is strictly for lost pet information. If you have other questions regarding animals, contact your local Animal Shelter.

Human Relations Commission Publishes Communications Guide

GTE California has printed 5,000 copies of a booklet on *How To Communicate Better With Clients, Customers and Workers Whose English Is Limited*. The text was developed by staff of the County Commission on Human Relations to improve communications among people of different cultures. "The communications booklet is just one Commission response to our changing County population," said Gene Mornell, Executive Director.

Meg Perry, GTE's Consumer Information Manager, was approached by the Commission

for in-kind printing services. "When we read the booklet," said Perry, "we found that it is something we want all our customer contact staff to have, so we printed additional copies for our own use."

The booklet does not tell people what they "should" do, but gives hints in simple, concise language, with examples that can be recognized from one's own experience, according to the Commission.

For a sample copy call the Commission's Info Line at (213) 974-0816.

Give A 'Dinomite' Birthday Party For Children

The Natural History Museum is now offering a dinosaur birthday party package for children and grandchildren of museum members between the ages of four and twelve.

One of the things that makes a museum party special and unique is the children's exclusive use of the museum's Ralph M. Parsons Discovery Center for 1½ hours. This includes fossil rubbings, a dinosaur video, Discovery boxes, an area where children can try on costumes from around the world, animals (both live and stuffed) and two trained staff members to help with activities and answer questions.

While parents are requested to bring refreshments, also included in the party package are invitations, paper goods, decorations, balloons, a dinosaur T-shirt for the birthday child, name buttons and party favors for all the children, and birthday photographs.

Optional extras include a party video tape, story telling and craft activities, and a Dinosaur Puppet Theater.

Parties are available Tuesday through Sunday from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. and one adult is required for every five children. The parent or grandparent of the child must be a museum member.

For birthday party information, call (213) 744-3342 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. For membership information, call (213) 744-3426.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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