



DIGEST

MAY 15, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Dickerson: Helping Ease South Central Gang Violence

For most folks, gangs represent intimidation and terror. They're groups to avoid at all costs. But avoidance is not Evette Dickerson's style.

"If I can create some type of difference and get apathy out of their lives, I'll have accomplished a lot," said Dickerson, a two-year County employee. "It's an extremely tough environment out there."

Employee of the Month

At the Helen Keller Park in South Central Los Angeles, the community and recreation safety specialist gets gang members involved in activities that help themselves and the community.

On Martin Luther King's birthday, through her efforts, the park sponsored a Plate for the Hungry event, which enlisted gang members to provide meals to the needy and homeless. On



Supervisor Pete Schabarum and Evette Dickerson

another occasion, victims of gang violence were remembered at a Brotherhood Commemorative Picnic. She also organized a peace rally, bringing together four rival gangs.

(Continued on page 2)

Museum of Art Turns 25

One of California's greatest institutions is throwing a yearlong birthday bash. That's right, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

And while festivities and media coverage will continue throughout 1990, it's time to glimpse into the museum's history.

Founded in 1913, the museum functioned as part of the County Museum of Science, History and Art in Exposition Park. In the early 1960s, the desire for a separate art museum spurred the creation by local civic and cultural leaders of a three-building complex on five and one-half acres in Hancock Park. The land was donated by the County of Los Angeles and the museum opened its doors in March 1965.

In less than 20 years, the museum outgrew the original complex. A long-range master plan — one of the most comprehensive and far-
(Continued on page 2)

Library Fire Destroys Books but not Morale

For employees at the Charter Oak Library in Covina, shelving materials presents a brave, new challenge. In the wake of a March fire that destroyed more than 6,000 books and damaged thousands more, employees have devoted hundreds of extra hours dusting and boxing more than 12,000 items for storage.

So far, more than 9,000 books from the closed library have been cleaned and placed in boxes with another 11,000 waiting for a verdict of toss or save.

Approximately 30 firefighters fought the March 23 blaze, which was caused by an electrical short in a ceiling fluorescent light fixture. Structural damage to the wood frame and stucco building was estimated at \$50,000, and all the electronic equipment, including the entire automated circulation system, was destroyed.



Charter Oak Library after March 23 fire.

And while staff members mourn the loss, so does the community. But according to Library officials, plans are in progress to re-open the building in six months.

Meanwhile, more than 70 letters from children and adults who use the library have poured in, Library Public Information Officer Sue Cowen said.

Jamie Barton, 8, writes that he's used the library for the past three years. His sentiments reflect what many community residents explained in letters.

"It (the library) brightens my day. I go there whenever I feel blue," Barton writes. "I love it so much. I read my first book there."

Birthday Bash for Art Museum

(Continued from page 1)

reaching among American cultural institutions was developed in 1981 as a result of the growing collections, special exhibition programs, education activities, and research centers and libraries.

The 1980s ushered in extraordinary growth. The creation of the Doris Stein Research and Design Center for Costumes and Textiles, the American Quilt Research Center and the Robert Gore Rifkind Center

for German Expressionist Studies established the museum's prominence in their respective fields.

Today, five buildings surrounding a central court comprise the museum. A continuing program of concerts, film, lectures and tours complementing the exhibitions and collections, set the pace for California's cultural landscape.

For more information, call (213) 857-6000.



Museum Director
Dr. Earl A. Powell, III



Celebrating 25 years on Wilshire Boulevard: the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Music Center Seeks Volunteers

The Music Center is looking for volunteers to staff its gift shop.

Sales hostesses at the Music Center Shop on the Plaza are needed from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Available shifts include 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, call (213) 972-7244 or write the Music Center Volunteer Office, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012.



Dickerson: Employee of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, Dickerson serves as administrator for Another Way Out rap sessions for youth and youth employment recruitment projects.

For her outstanding accomplishments and personal achievements, Dickerson was honored by the Board of Supervisors April 17 in a Board Hearing Room ceremony as the April County Employee of the Month.

Dickerson's gang activities, however, extend

beyond the South Central park.

She has worked with both NBC and a French television company assisting in the production of documentaries on youth gangs. The NBC program will air in August.

Dickerson, who received a master's degree from Indiana University, has received the Governor's Stop Crime Award and the Sheriff's Department Volunteer Crime Prevention Award.

Congratulations Retirees

We congratulate the following retirees and hope they will enjoy their well-deserved leisure time after more than 25 years of public service:

Assessor: Lora K. Stelle

Beaches & Harbors: Richard W. Evans

Chief Administrative Office: Peggy Brooks

Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner: Justin A. Pecot, Harold J. Wise

Children's Services: Anne Adler, Blanch W. Jones, Thelma M. Lennear, Robert F. Petrash, Mildred Schnerk

District Attorney: Del Nora F. Martinez, John N. Peruzza

Executive Office-Superior Court/County Clerk: Theresa A. Anderson, Anne S. Motoyoshi, Jerry L. Nottke, Mary E. Stipe, Nieves Suela

Fire: Anthony B. Dimiceli, Allan P. MacLeon, Pierre J. McHale

Health Services: Alfred D. Andrews, Benilda C. Ang, Mary E. Bishop, Peter J. Cheles, William G. Crary, Estene Diggs, Nannie Lou Edmond, Matilda Gaytan, Lillian D. Goff, Betty J. Jones, Rosa L. Layton, Surrulla R. Mitchell, Marion E. Ness, Thelma Patrick, Henry Paul, Muriel Poole, Donnis L. Reed, George B. Reynolds, Jr., Ronald E. Saul, Joyce P. Smith, Irene A. Towle, Agnes S. Tsuchiyama, Veaver Ward, Mattie L. Wilkins, Wilbur A. York

Internal Services: James F. Andrews, James Aubrey, Odis Bagby, Glendon T. Bryant, Wesley Fenderson, James Gaffney, Arthur M. Harrell, Norman L. Hermreck, Bernard L. Koch, Henry M. Luna, Joseph H. Norwood, Fumio Oshita, Alfred R. Vick, James H. Walker
Marshal: Stowe T. Brown, Noel Fawber
Mental Health: Thomas F. Carter, Bert M. Indin, Richard D. Schnell, Joyce A. Will, Herman Williams

Municipal Court: Grace A. Bradley, Marian D. Scritchfield

Museum of Natural History: Charles E. Rozaire

Parks & Recreation: Frank Smedile, Jr.

Probation: Cathrine I. Dalley, Lorraine Hundermark, Edward M. Tarutani

Public Library: Helen M. Amestoy

Public Social Services: Gloria J. Brown, Edna Cluse, Manuel Contreras, Darlene J. Cravea, Daniel A. Habel, Charlean J. Hayes, Lorraine H. Mendoza, Larry D. Miller, Dorothy L. Sweatt, Beverly Thomas, Melvin J. Williams

Public Works: Edwin G. Bargeman, Pleaze Laster

Registrar-Recorder: Donald W. Lubach

Sheriff: Philip Y. Attalla, Robert E. Byers, Patrick J. Carolan, Donald E. Cheney, Robert L. Denney, Patsy L. Fenn, Virginia Fletcher, Akira Fujimoto, Richard A. Hudson, Don F. James, Billy E. Kirtley, Bill O. Logan, James Lusk, Dale J. McMullan, Pete L. Moreno, Albert Nahum, Franklin R. Parsons, Joseph Sabas, Raymond P. Sanders, Franklin E. Wentz

EARTH DAY

Natural History Museum Explores Threatened Rain Forests

The Natural History Museum celebrated Earth Day with environmental displays, lectures and gallery walks examining the beauty, diversity and problems threatening tropical rain forests.

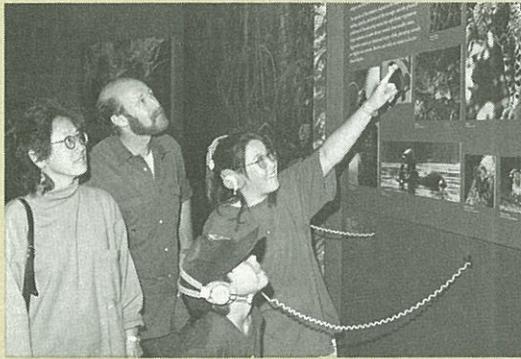
"Tropical Rain Forests: A Disappearing Treasure," an exhibition examining the destruction of the world's great rain forests, is on display through May 27.

As worldwide debates have grown more heated over the depletion of earth's ozone layer and the extinction of plants and animals, the preservation of these forests has attracted international attention.

"Tropical forests once covered nearly four billion acres, an area nearly twice the size of the United States," Judith Gradwohl, exhibition curator, said. "Today, less than 60 percent of the originally forested land remains, yet most of the destruction occurred within the last 30 years."

The presentation emphasizes the diversity of life in the rain forest and explores the issues involved in rain forest preservation.

Natural History Museum visitors listen to the sounds of a rain forest during Earth Day.



A model of a Brazilian worker tapping a rain forest rubber tree is a featured exhibit attraction. The rubber is transformed into latex and used in commercial rubber products, and the tree is not destroyed.



Rain forest exhibit designer Barbara Allen leads a tour at the Natural History Museum.

Sheriff's Department Rides for Hope

Sheriff Department employees will participate in the 8th Annual City of Hope Bikeathon May 20 and are now looking for sponsors.

Team members will ride at all eight route locations throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties.

A \$10 minimum pledge is requested. The event benefits the City of Hope Medical Center,

which battles cancer, leukemia, diabetes, AIDS and other diseases.

For more information, contact Sergeant Karen Green, (213) 946-7871.



Ridesharing Helps Ax Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Ridesharing can help stamp out breathing disorders, headaches and other health hazards associated with carbon monoxide poisoning.

A colorless, odorless gas produced from combustion of gasoline and other carbon-containing fuels, carbon monoxide interferes with the oxygen-carrying capability of the blood. And individuals with heart disease may develop angina, a chest pain caused by lack of oxygen.

With automobiles producing more than 90 percent of carbon monoxide in the Los Angeles basin, ridesharing can help tackle this problem.

Ridesharing information is available through Commuter Computer, (213) 380-RIDE. This computerized referral service is free to all County employees.

'Rob a Home, Go to Jail' Law Nets Results

Seventy-nine residential burglary cases ended in conviction during a three-month period last year for violation of the "Rob a Home, Go to Jail" law, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has announced.

The Superior Court cases that were tried between September and November 1989

ended in conviction and mandatory jail time.

"Los Angeles County means business when it says you will go to jail for robbing a home," said Hahn, who authored the measure in June 1979. "Our residents need to know that they can be safe in their homes," he added.

Eddy Tanaka, Department of Public Social Services Director, congratulates designer Mel Danielson, a Bureau of Special Operations social worker.



Auditor- Controller Mark H. Bloodgood with designer Brenda Johnson of Systems Division.



Tom Tidemanson, Department of Public Works Director, and designer Anamaria Antoni, with the department's mascot, KANDU the Lion, serving as a featured T-shirt attraction.

T-SHIRT CONTEST

Spotlights Pride, Design Skills

County employees will square off against 300 groups and organizations in the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica T-shirt competition.

Employees sported department designs during the 20th Annual WalkAmerica April 28 at Bonelli Regional Park. Now, one question remains: Did they walk in award-winning designed T-shirts?

According to Juanita Childs, March of Dimes special events coordinator, T-shirts must have been received by May 11, with judging occurring by June 1.

Prizes are awarded in three categories: best design; best team mascot; and most creative. All profits from the T-shirt sales go to the March of Dimes.

For more information, call (818) 972-9449.

Public Works Set for National Celebration

During the week of May 20, the Department of Public Works joins thousands of employees throughout the United States to celebrate the 31st annual observance of National Public Works Week.

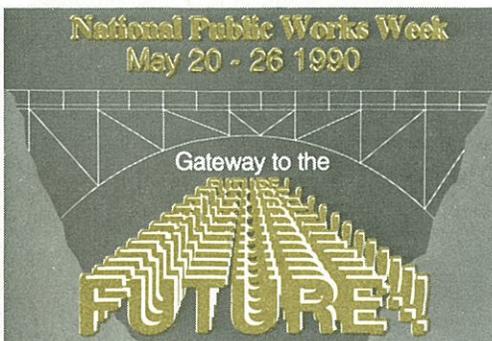
An exhibit featuring artifacts and pictures depicting the function and history of the County department will be on display in the Alhambra headquarters lobby.

The department will also host the annual Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony, where employees making special contributions in productivity, safety, performance and public service will be honored.

According to Director Tom Tidemanson, many changes have occurred in the department during the past year, including improved billing procedures, curbside recycling programs and customer satisfaction surveys.

"The Department of Public Works' mission is to provide public works services in a responsive, efficient and cost effective manner, and to maintain its standing as being number one in customer service," Tidemanson said.

For more information, contact Jean Granucci, (818) 458-4087.



County of Los Angeles

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