



DIGEST

MAY 31, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Youth Volunteer of the Year: A Way of Life

How can a 19-year old rank as a seasoned, volunteer veteran?

For Jose Raygoza, it's a way of life. This year's Youth Volunteer of the Year started an impressive volunteer track record at 15 by organizing a full scale soccer program for 200 youngsters at the El Monte-based Boy's Club.

But Raygoza "never dreamed" he'd receive top County honors for his efforts.

"My mom said she was about to faint when they announced the award," Raygoza said. "I was amazed and excited at the same time."

As a volunteer with the Department of Community and Senior Citizens Services, Raygoza recruits other volunteers to serve as coaches, referees and ground maintenance crews; he also seeks donations for awards and trophies. These efforts enable low-income youth to participate in sports programs free of charge.

But there's more. He spends about 25 hours a week developing schedules, coordinating assignments, and maintaining the playing field and equipment. At the end of the season, he

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Volunteer of the Year Sylvia Tansey, center, with Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Gloria Deukmejian.

1990 Volunteer of the Year 'Flabbergasted' by Award

Sylvia Tansey, a psychologist and teacher of the handicapped, stood "flabbergasted" as she became the 1990 Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year.

"People who know me would agree that I'm never without words," said Tansey, during the Eighth Annual County Volunteer Awards Ceremony and Luncheon April 23 at the Music Center. "I'm very surprised and speechless."

With Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Gloria Deukmejian at her side, Tansey received the award for serving in the Child Advocate's Office of the County Superior Court, where she helps abused, neglected and abandoned children.

"This is the icing on the cake," she said during an interview. "I love my work and the award wasn't even necessary; I'm flabbergasted."

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Essay Contest Winners Showcase Public Service Pride

Armed with pen and paper and a grab bag of ideas, 140 County employees competed in the Public Service Recognition Week Essay Contest. With all votes in, nine winners, all from different departments, walked away with a wide range of prizes.

During a County mall Public Service Recognition Week celebration May 7, the win-

ners received prizes and awards for their efforts.

"I felt like shrieking, I was so happy," said first place winner Caroline Walmsley, a supervising children's services worker for the Department of Children's Services. "When I heard the news, I felt like a contestant on a TV show."

Walmsley picked a weekend stay for two at

the Biltmore Hotel as her grand prize.

Answering the question, What role do I play in providing quality service to County residents?, all 140 contestants expressed great pride in public service.

"It's obvious the contestants put some thought into this question even before we announced a

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(L. to R.) Ron Harrington, Nancy Bejune, Caroline Walmsley, Laura Lynn, City of Commerce council member Ruth Aldaco, actor Stephen Mendel, Darlene Isbell, Gay Faucett, Steven Cohan and Steven Moseley.

Award: 'Icing on the Cake' for Volunteer of the Year

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Tansey finished with top honors among more than 70,560 volunteers who donated more than 4.3 million hours of public service in 1989. A variety of volunteer opportunities exist in 32 departments, 10 health services institutions and 25 municipal courts.

A Los Angeles Unified School District teacher and psychologist, Tansey devoted her summer vacation last year to help organize the Child Advocate's Office for the Van Nuys Dependency Court.

In addition, she trained new volunteers and offered consulting advice to judges, attorneys,

social workers and other guardians. To volunteer 40 hours a week is not unheard of for this Los Angeles resident.

Wendy Rutledge, KCOP-TV's evening news co-anchor, served as mistress of ceremonies, and Supervisor Deane Dana also presented awards.

The special categorical award recipients also honored included **Distinguished Volunteers:** Jannie Laurie MacKay, Children's Services; Alice Frost Thomas, Arboreta and Botanic Gardens; Wilhelmina Shamberger, Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center; Arbara

Lee Harden, Health Services; Lupe Cordova, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center; **Arts and Humanities:** Jane Bristol, Public Library; **Education:** Toni M. Levyn, District Attorney; **Environment:** William E. Warner, Parks and Recreation; **Health:** Betty Campbell Phillips, LAC-USC Medical Center; **Human Services:** Indira Hale Tucker, Public Social Services; **Public Safety:** Marilyn McDonald, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner; **Nelle Reagan Humanitarian:** Jane Cunningham Perry, Mental Health; and **Senior Volunteer:** Juanita H. Smith, LAC-USC Medical Center.

562 Years Young: the 1990 Golden Volunteers

This year's six Golden Volunteers of the Year rack up 562 years of living! That represents a truck load of wisdom, wit and volunteer experience. What's their secret for longevity?

Let's examine.

At 91, Alice Bugg is an eight-year board member of the Friends of Altadena Senior Center Volunteer Support Group. "All my life I've tried to fill a void where there is one and serve when nobody wants to serve," the former teacher said.

Clifford Holliday, selected as 1989 Advocate of the Year by the Congress of California Seniors, is 90 years young. "I feel a great need for people and concern for the welfare of society and humanity — that's why I serve," he states.

A 15-year volunteer veteran, 92-year-old Suzanne Sandell assists the Department of Community and Senior Citizens Services Nutrition Program by helping prepare the day's food program. "I like to help and I know I am needed," Sandell said.

At 101, Victor Christen gets his kicks by performing. And, as a volunteer with the Department of Parks and Recreation, he serves as master of ceremonies for the Santa Anita Tuesday Club at Arcadia Park. He states: "I enjoy



(L. to R.) Suzanne Sandell, Alice Bugg, Gloria Deukmejian, Victor Christen, Earl Eller and Clifford Holliday.

every day and I am delighted to entertain at the club meetings. . . If this is volunteering, then I must say that I sincerely enjoy giving my time."

For the last five years, Earl Eller has volunteered to coordinate the shuffleboard games for the Santa Anita Tuesday Club Arcadia Park. "I've always enjoyed a good game of shuffleboard," says 97-year-old Eller. "So it was easy to organize the weekly game."

Carl Loos, an avid plant collector who donates about 350 hours a year at the South Coast Botanic Garden, is 91. Celebrating 12 years as a County volunteer, Loos is responsible for collecting containers needed for the garden plant sales.

Raygoza: Youth Volunteer Winner

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organizes a fiesta-like dinner to honor the players.

For Raygoza, volunteering means "having an opportunity to show these kids that someone cares, and it means keeping them away from drugs, gangs and crime."



Youth Volunteer of the Year Jose Raygoza and Supervisor Deane Dana.

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:

Auditor-Controller: Margaret L. Melton
Community & Senior Citizens Services: Martha Coco
Fire: Leland E. Mathis, Franklin T. Reavis, John J. White
Health Services: Jerome A. Miller, Laura

L. Smith
Municipal Court: June Wong
Parks & Recreation: Stanley McCarroll
Probation: Kenneth D. Smoot, William F. Youngs
Public Works: Lawrence A. Manley, Beatrice Waterworth
Sheriff: Edgar G. Reed, Fred A. Sakuda
Best wishes are also extended to the follow-

ing retirees with more than 25 years of County service:

District Attorney: Marcella B. Frances
Health Services: Cecilio Muniz
Internal Services: Angelo N. Colacchio, Sylvia B. Naylor, William J. Neviews
Public Social Services: Raymond D. Harvey, Loretta Matthews
Sheriff: Lita L. Holmgren

Top Essay Winners Go Outside for Inspiration

By mixing a love for gardening, children and writing, Caroline Walmsley developed a winning essay.

The 23-year Department of Children's Services employee said "working with children and in a garden are two of life's most enjoyable experiences." These "experiences" shine brightly in Walmsley's prize-winning essay.

"Pretty landscapes and happy plants are developed through knowledge, planning and hard work. Like plants, family and children have special needs in order to thrive. The human ecosystem is often far more delicate than the plant world. Children have nutritional, medical and housing needs. They also have the right to education and emotional, spiritual nurturance.

Children's roots are planted deeply in "family." It is traumatic when that system shows dysfunction. In Children's Services we work with that dysfunction: to rehabilitate family, but oftentimes to replace the child to a foster setting. As in transplanting flowers, in replacing a child the proper groundwork and utmost care must be extended so that each child adapts and re-establishes a normal, fulfilling growth pattern.

As a supervising Children's Services worker, I am a "landscaper": helping to design the overall growth scheme for each child; being always available to aid and direct my workers; motivating and ensuring positive work conditions so that each Children's Services worker can best tend his caseload and, in turn, effect the happiest, healthiest children and families. Children are the loveliest blooms in any environment and we in Children's Services strive to keep that beauty alive in each succeeding generation."



Essay contest winner Caroline Walmsley.

Top: Mary Jung, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, congratulates lifeguard Steven Moseley on his second place finish in the Public Service Recognition Week Essay Contest.

Lifeguard Steven Moseley approached the Public Service Recognition Week Essay Contest from a different angle — poetry. His poem, "A Lifeguard's Role . . . The Water's Edge," chalked up a second place showing and a \$200 Savings Bond for the Department of Beaches and Harbors employee.

Featured below, Moseley's poem serves as a prelude to the lifeguard season—summer.

I go to work where others go to play,
And you'll find me on duty every hour, every day.
Rescuing boaters in howling winds and seas,
Or applying Band-Aids to crying little kids with
"boo-boos" on their knees.

For over 70 miles of coastline, I answer the call,
Catalina, the bikepath, the highway, I'll handle 'em all;

But my number one goal on the beaches I roam,
Is to keep each patron safe 'till he journeys home.

You may not even notice me as you frolic in the waves,

Playing Frisbee or smashball, or just bagging a few rays,

But for your safety, or that of a son or a daughter,
I'll be doing my job — I'll be watching the water.

This role may look easy, and yeah, I get a great tan,

And instead of an office, I've got ocean and sand,
But you'll find me in the water even if it's cold enough to freeze

'Cause I'm the last chance for an answer to a drowning victim's pleas.

I don't mean to brag, but I'm a pretty good crowd,
I'm your L.A. County Ocean Lifeguard, and that's reason to be proud.

Commuter Train Starts

While commuters waited on freeways, several transportation groups designed rail projects to help ease the daily gridlock.

And the years of planning have started to pay off.

Commuter Train, a San Juan Capistrano to Los Angeles rail line sponsored by the Orange County Transportation Commission, Santa Fe Railway and Amtrak, is now in service. And a new shuttle links Union Station with downtown office buildings.

For information on schedules and pass purchases, call (213) 380-7750, extension 270, or in Orange County (714) 638-9000, extension 3421.

Nine Departments Featured in Essay Contest

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contest," said essay contest coordinator Linda Centell. "Their essays demonstrated that they clearly see the impact of their work, no matter how removed they are from public contact."

Leo Gray, Brotherhood Crusade Director of Fundraising; Bill Branch, United Way Corporate Campaign Vice President; and Evelyn Gutierrez, Public Employees Roundtable Los Angeles Chapter President, served as judges for the competition.

In addition to Walmsley, winners included Steven Moseley, a lifeguard with the Department of Beaches and Harbors; Nancy Bejune, a

Mental Health Department registered nurse; Ron Harrington, an Internal Services Department painting supervisor; Gay Faucett, a Department of Public Social Services Medi-Cal Food Stamp screener; Marissa Batt, a Deputy District Attorney; Darlene Isbell, Chief of the Medical Alert Center and Patient Transportation with Health Services; Laura Lynn, a Public Works building inspector; and Steven Cohan, an Arboreta and Botanic Gardens Assistant Superintendent.

PUBLIC SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Snapshots of public service pride:

At left, employees pack the County mall for Public Service Recognition Week kick-off celebration, May 7.

Below, the Locke High School Saints move to the beat for about 2,000 County employees.

In one of more than 20 exhibition and food booths, members of the Los Angeles County Hispanic Managers Association serve taquitos to employees.



Unload Your Household Hazardous Waste

The Department of Public Works and the County Sanitation Districts will host a free household hazardous waste roundup June 16 at Cal Poly Pomona.

The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. event takes place in Parking Lot K, 3801 W. Temple Ave.

County residents can bring up to five gallons of household hazardous waste, including motor oil, paint, cleaners with acids or lye, turpentine, pesticides and herbicides. Do not mix separate products. Explosives, ammunition or radioactive materials will not be accepted.

County and City Join Together to Help Pedestrians

Walking back and forth between the Hall of Administration and Music Center will get simpler and safer due to the efforts of Supervisor Ed Edelman.

A Grand Avenue crosswalk, now under construction, is slated for completion June 9. Located between First and Temple Streets, the crosswalk will feature pedestrian-activated traffic signals to allow safe and convenient crossing.

"It has long been a temptation for people in a hurry to jaywalk across Grand Avenue, because of the long block between First and Temple," Edelman said. "This practice is not only unsafe and illegal for the individuals, but it also ties up traffic in what is already a heavily congested area."

Edelman initiated this project between the County and City of Los Angeles in cooperation with Mayor Tom Bradley.

Last year, Edelman and Bradley teamed up to place traffic control officers at the Hall of Administration Grand Avenue garage exit to assist employees leaving at the end of the day.

Although the street is under City jurisdiction, an agreement was reached enabling County Safety Police to direct the garage-exit traffic whenever City traffic officers are not available.

"The pedestrian crosswalk on Grand is another concrete example of what can be accomplished when the County and City work together," Edelman said.

County of Los Angeles

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Room 783, Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: 974-1770