



DIGEST

JUNE 29, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

101-Year Old Can't Find Time to Retire

Victor Christen stopped "chasing women" at 90.

"They could run faster than I could," he joked. "And they kept getting away." But that was 11 years ago. And while his dating days might be on the wane in 1990, the 101-year old hasn't slowed down much.

Every Tuesday, you'll find Christen dishing up an endless stream of one-line jokes at Arcadia Park in Arcadia where he volunteers for the Department of Parks and Recreation as master of ceremonies for a seniors get together club.

His secret for passing the 100 mark?

"Don't worry," he said. "Some folks take themselves too seriously. Worry will kill you faster than anything else. Just take life as it comes."

As a County volunteer, Christen ranks as the top senior among more than 70,560 volunteers. In 1989, these volunteers chalked up more than 4.3 million hours of public service.

On a recent Tuesday, Christen kept the crowd of about 100 seniors rolling as he en-



Did you hear the one about? . . . 101-year-old Victor Christen gets off a couple of quick one-line jokes at Arcadia Park.

tertained with a mixture of sarcasm and philosophy.

"I guess I know more than 200 jokes," he said. "I keep them straight and I leave the dirt out. True life in itself is funny enough."

And true life for Christen involves "plenty" of hard work. "Retire?" he asks rhetorically, "I've never retired." He still works at Foulger Ford in Arcadia as a salesman.

"I had to retire from working for a drug company at 70," he said. "But within a year I started a job as a car salesman in Sierra Madre.

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DUEL IN THE SUN Sheriff's Department Wins Grueling 120-Mile Desert Run

Knocking off the Los Angeles police, FBI and more than 80 other teams, the Sheriff's Department recently captured first place in the grueling 120-mile Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay run.

Considered the Super Bowl of law enforcement athletic competitions, 24 Sheriff deputies from the Men's Central Jail finished the run in 13 hours, edging out the second place Los Angeles Police Department.

The victory marked the first time in four years that the County team finished first. And the win at the March 23 event proved all the more rewarding due to the intense nature of the competition.

"We had come so close in the past," said team captain Lieutenant Jerry Skaggs. "This was the hardest the team had ever trained; the dedication was at an all time high."

And the team's enthusiasm was lifted to greater heights after a team meeting attended by Sheriff Sherman Block, Skaggs said.

"We just couldn't lose after that."

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Columbus' 500th Anniversary Hosted by County

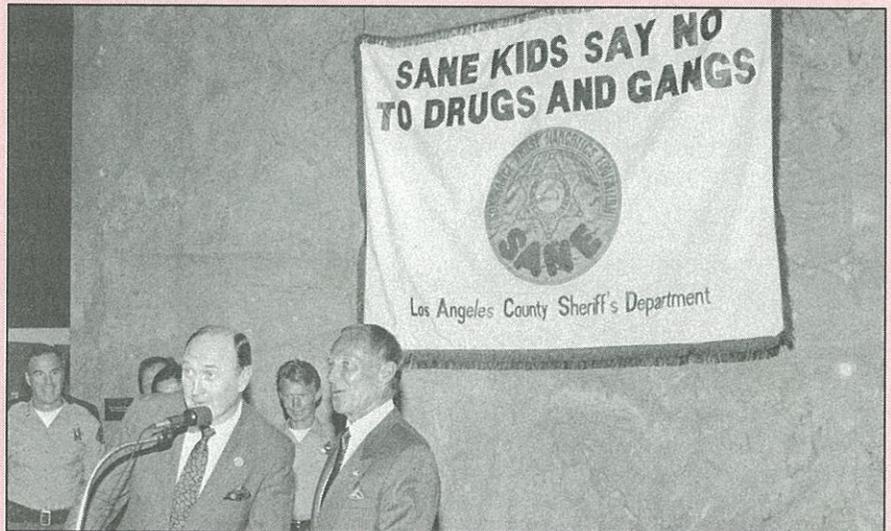
In two years, 500 years will have passed since Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492. And the County has been chosen by the United States Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission to organize all celebration activities in its 87 cities and 138 unincorporated communities.

On May 31, more than 400 civic and business leaders packed the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center for a reception unveiling the celebration plans.

John Kilroy, chairman and founder of Kilroy Industries, was appointed by Supervisor Pete Schabarum to head the Los Angeles Quincentenary Committee. The Board of Supervisors appointed the County Office of Protocol, under Protocol Chief Sandra Ausman, to coordinate the activities.

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COUNTY VICTORY



Undersheriff Robert Edmonds, left, and Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates address media questions after unfurling a County banner at the Los Angeles Police Department's Parker Center. Displayed for one month, the banner represented the County's victory over the city in a grueling 120-mile desert relay race. See story on page two.

County Flag Flying High at LAPD Headquarters

Is that a County flag flying on city turf? Forget the eye exam, my friend.

It's just the outcome of a personal bet between Sheriff Sherman Block and Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates. Both officials agreed that the loser of the 1990 Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay would fly the winner's department flag for one month.

So, on April 18, Undersheriff Robert Edmonds and Gates gathered at the police de-

partment's Parker Center lobby for the Sheriff's S.A.N.E. banner unveiling.

According to event attendees, Edmonds and Gates exchanged jokes concerning the rivalry and competition.

But over at Parker Center during the banner's month-long stay, some officers were less than enthused with the ever-present banner.

"When will it be coming down?" asked an officer who requested anonymity.

Sheriff's Department Wins Desert Race

(Continued from page 1)

The first-place position switched back and forth three times during the race, according to Skaggs. And with only 23 miles left, the LAPD Parker Center Team held a 2 and one-half minute lead. But the "men in blue" couldn't hold on.

"It was a race we will never forget," noted Central Jail Deputy Mehrdad Alkalamy. "It's hard to forget the comradery and togetherness this event created for the entire group. What a weekend; what an experience! I can't wait until next year."

But Skaggs looks forward to a tremendous challenge next year.



"We've woken the sleeping giant, the LAPD," he said. "Next year they'll be back with a vengeance."

More than 6,000 people and 108 teams showed up for the event. The County showcased 27 teams, representing every area of the Sheriff's Department.

IT'S RECYCLING TIME



Supervisor Kenneth Hahn is surrounded by a group of young recyclers at the Kenneth Hahn Plaza in Watts on Mother's Day. Youngsters turned Pepsi Cola bottles into recycled gifts for their mothers. Hahn's daughter, Janice Hahn Baum, second from left, also attended the event. "It's great that these young people are being taught at an early age to recycle everything they can to make sure that our environment is safe for future generations," Hahn said.

Congratulations Retirees

Warm wishes and congratulations go to the following employees who are retiring after more than 30 years of County service:

ARBORETA/BOTANIC GARDENS:

George H. Lewis

FIRE: Thomas W. Eldridge, David A. Lehmann, John A. Palozzi, James O. Watts

HEALTH SERVICES: Jack Bamberg, Everett J. Carmody, Victor L. Fuery, James H. Martin, Patrick Allan Winters, Beverly A. Wong

PARKS & RECREATION: Edmond M. La Croix, Jr.

PROBATION: Rose B. Shields

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Jo W. Covington, Toni Quesada

REGIONAL PLANNING: John S. Edwards

SHERIFF: Donald Vincent Daley, Miriam J. Garland, James R. Rupsa, Willis W. Sperry

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Dorothy I. Kurpakus

HEALTH SERVICES: John E. Hura, Clayton W. Johnson, Jr., Delora Matus, Lawrence N. Ochoa

INTERNAL SERVICES: Leo Rosecrans, Gerald V. Stanzell

PARKS AND RECREATION: John T. Martinez

PROBATION: Milton Davis, Ronnie R. Lockwood

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Richard M. Lessinger

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Myrtice E. Ballard

PUBLIC WORKS: Leonard M. Bellin

SHERIFF: Florence E. Harms, Miriam Elberta Travis, Vivian R. Smith

County History Exhibit Opens in Board Office

The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History has installed the first of a continuing series of exhibits in the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors.

Located in Room 383 at the Hall of Administration, the public reception area exhibit features artifacts from early County government. Included are items from the first County hospital and equipment of the type used by the Sheriff's Department in the 1880s.

The exhibit is the result of an effort initiated last year by Board of Supervisors' Executive Officer Larry Monteilh and Museum Director Dr. Craig Black.

Employees and the public are invited to view the exhibit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

101-Year Old: 'Just Take Life As it Comes'

(Continued from page 1)

At the age of 88, Christen switched to another dealership where he stayed well into his mid-90s.

Jim Zecchini, General Sales Manager at Foulger Ford, said Christen's memory and knowledge of cars is "incredible."

"He's been around the car business 85 years," Zecchini said. "He's got quite an impressive clientele list."

Zecchini said he first met Christen three years ago.

"He walked into my office and told me he was looking for a job," Zecchini said. "I wondered how old this guy was and thought, 'my God I can't turn him down.'

"So, I walked into the owner and told him I had this 98-year-old guy in my office looking for a job. The owner looked at me and asked if his name is Victor Christen? I said yes, and he told me to hire him."

According to Zecchini, Christen worked for the owner many years ago and made an "incredible" impression.

"He's very funny and can talk on so many subjects," Zecchini said. "He's also been featured on several radio interviews."

And looking to the future, Christen hopes live "at least another 10 years."

"I'd like to bring in the next century," he said. "I'm just sticking around to see what happens next."



John Kilroy, left, Los Angeles County Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Committee Chairman, greets Supervisor Pete Schabarum.



(L. to R.) John Goudie, U. S. Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission Chairman; Alberto Boniver, Consul General of Italy; Supervisor Mike Antonovich; and Eduardo Garrigues, Consul General of Spain.

Columbus: County to Host Celebrations

(Continued from page 1)

Visits to the Port of Long Beach by replicas of the three Christopher Columbus caravels — the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria — will highlight the County's celebration of the discovery of the Americas.

"The caravels will visit the Port of Long Beach for one week in September, 1992, and will return for an additional two-week stay during the Christmas holidays," Kilroy said. "In honor of the caravels' visit, the Port of Long Beach will stage a Grand Regatta of Tall Ships on September 27, 1992."

Also participating in the Music Center announcement were Supervisors Pete

Schabarum and Mike Antonovich, along with Italian Consul General Alberto Boniver, Spain's Consul General Eduardo Garrigues and John Goudie, Chairman of the U.S. Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission.

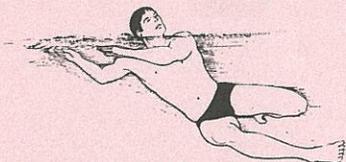
Among other activities planned by the County are:

—Major related exhibits at the County Museum of Art, the County Museum of Natural History, the Huntington Library, the Gene Autry Western Museum and UCLA's Powell Library.

— Educational programs, including an essay contest in cooperation with the public libraries, and two poster contests.

Beaches and Harbors Gears up for Summer Programs

The Department of Beaches and Harbors is gearing up for an anticipated record number of youngsters enrolling in its continuing W.A.T.E.R. and Junior Lifeguard summer training programs.



Department Director Ted Reed reports that the W.A.T.E.R. (Water Awareness, Training, Education and Recruitment) program has embarked upon its fourth year.

Developed by Beaches and Harbors with backing from the Brotherhood Crusade and department employees' charitable giving donations, the programs are designed to introduce inner city boys and girls, ages 7 to 17, to water-related employment and educational opportunities.



Eddy Love, in sun glasses, teaches inner city youth to sail at Marina del Rey. A Department of Beaches and Harbors lifeguard, Love also serves as the W.A.T.E.R. program coordinator.

"This program has evolved into a highly successful motivational and recreational activity," Reed said. "It already has produced the department's first recurrent ocean lifeguard as well as several others involved in summer water activities."

The youths are introduced to the program through promotional and instructional activities at their local public swimming pools and parks. To qualify, they must meet or exceed established times for different age groups in a 100-meter freestyle swim test.

Reed also reported continuation of another popular youth-oriented program sponsored by his department. Day in the Marina involves transporting youths, ages 7 to 12, from County parks and youth centers on 16 Tuesdays and Thursdays during July and August. At Marina del Rey's Burton Chace Park, they are treated to arts and crafts, recreational games, fishing and picnicking and also are provided a harbor boat cruise.

For information, call (213) 305-9587.

July

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

The Department of Parks and Recreation is once again preparing for July is Parks and Recreation Month in Los Angeles County.

The national month of recognition is celebrated to enhance public awareness of parks and recreation. To assist with this effort, a Hall of Administration display highlighting the department can be viewed in the second floor lobby, near the mall entrance.

This year, the department continues highlighting the Pride in Parks project, which emphasizes park safety and beautification, environmental improvement and community pride. July 11 marks the kickoff date for the project.

Specific activities vary from site to site, but each will include ceremonies, contests and games,

Mas Fukai, left, Chief Deputy to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and a Gardena City Councilman, enjoyed a round of golf recently during the Fifth Annual Kenneth Hahn Invitational Pro-Am at the Alondra Park Golf Course in Lawndale. Alondra Park is one of the many recreation areas featuring special events during the County's July is Parks and Recreation Month. Joining Fukai at Alondra Park, were, from left, Mike Williams, resident pro at the golf course; Sharkey Suetani, manager of the pro shop; and Terry Hurd.



general cleanup of parks and surrounding communities, tree planting, graffiti removal, painting of picnic tables, benches and trash cans. Eager helpers of all ages are needed. To participate, call Janet Turner, (213) 738-3035.

Last year, the project earned a statewide Take Pride in America award — the only governmental agency to win such an honor. Among more recent honors, Department of Parks and Recreation employee Evette Dickerson was named the April 1990 County Employee of the Month.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will sponsor the following special events.

JULY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
1	July Spectacular (carnival/fireworks)	Belvedere Park	213/268-9302
	July Spectacular	Val Verde Park	805/257-4014
4	4th of July Parade, Fun Activities	Stimson Park	818/330-9477
	63rd Annual Parade	Hart Park	805/259-0855
7	World Jr. Frisbee Contest	Stimson Park	818/330-9477
8	Shakespeare in the Park Series	Hart Park	805/259-0855
9	Open House	Loma Alta Park	818/798-1173
11	Pride in Parks Kickoff	Various Parks	213/738-2961
	Youth Awareness Day	Val Verde Park	805/257-4014
14	A Day in the Park	Campanella Park	213/631-6757
16	Walk to Art Program	Charles White Park	818/794-3807
18	Open House	Crescenta Valley Park	818/249-5940
19	Bicycle Safety & Rodeo Day	Pearblossom Park	805/944-2988
20	Open House	Dexter Park	818/798-1173
	Desert Festival	Jackie Robinson Park	805/944-2880
21	Desert Festival	Jackie Robinson Park	805/944-2880
	Bicycle Safety & Rodeo Day	Val Verde Park	805/257-4014
	A Day in the Park	Roosevelt Park/ Will Rogers Park	213/581-3766 213/566-8284
	Hawaiian Festival	Alondra Park	213/323-8125
22	Hawaiian Festival	Alondra Park	213/323-8125
23	Rodeo Workshop	Jackie Robinson Park	805/944-2880
28	A Day in the Park	Helen Keller Park	213/756-3506
	Coke Summer Series (begins)	Belvedere Park	213/268-9302
	Bicycle Safety & Rodeo Day	Lane Park	805/945-8491
30	Open House	Malibu Park School	818/798-1173

For more information about what's happening in your area, call your local County park for activities near you. Support your County parks and join in the fun. . . . You won't want to miss out!

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DIGEST

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