



DIGEST

JULY 16, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Carter: A 120-Mile Success Story

Hallie Carter is not your typical commuter.

During the week, she lives near the High Desert Hospital in Lancaster, where she works as a medical case worker. On weekends, she travels 120-miles to her home, husband and two teenage boys in Compton.

Employee of the Month

While planning to permanently relocate to Lancaster, Carter's family dedication is unmatched; dedication that mirrors a 23-year history with the Department of Health Services. And dedication that earned her the June 1990 County Employee of the Month title.



Hallie Carter and Supervisor Pete Schabarum.

"When I help the patients, there's always a rewarding result," Carter said.

(Continued on page 2)

CHILDREN'S COURT

Historic Groundbreaking for First-in-the-Nation Justice Facility

Plans to build the nation's first "child friendly" court turned to reality during a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$59 million Monterey Park facility.

"This is the first court facility in the entire nation to be designed and built with the special needs of children as the primary consideration," said Supervisor Ed Edelman during the May 30 groundbreaking. "A child-sensitive judicial environment will help to lessen the trauma of children who are victims of abuse and neglect."

With lower ceilings and judges' benches that are less intimidating, the 25 courtrooms in the Los Angeles County Children's Court will not resemble traditional courtrooms.

(Continued on page 2)

Weights and Measures: Keeping Balance for 75 Years

Maybe you'll meet at the gas station or local supermarket. And if your paths never cross, you'll still be affected by this low-profile County operation.

Each day, 46 inspectors from the Weights and Measures Consumer Protection Bureau move out for the good fight: to keep consumers from being nicked-and-dimed to death by inaccurate scales and scanners.

But most folks are unaware of the low-profile, 75-year-old County department which merged in 1985 with the County Agricultural Commissioner.

"We can't afford public relations people," said Nahan Gluck, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, during an interview at the bureau's South Gate headquarters. "It's too bad the majority of the public doesn't realize what we do."

Last year, according to Gluck, the bureau saved consumers at least \$15 million in overcharges. They inspected 19,862 commercial scales, 25,711 retail gas pumps, 1,734 taxi meters and 4,268,448

packaged items. And they handed out 1,510 citations and notices of violations.

"It's a very rewarding job," said Gluck, a 33-year County veteran. "The protection that we offer the citizens and business community is incredible; you can directly see the benefit."

With 20,000 businesses under its jurisdiction, the bureau's workload is "never ending." Three divisions work on tackling the daily tasks.

The Meter Division is responsible for checking the accuracy of measuring devices such as 37,000 gas pumps and the more than 1700 taxi meters in the County. The Scale Division inspects the more than 18,000 scales in the County that are used in commercial transactions. The Quantity Control and Investigations Division ensures that the seven billion packages proc-

(Continued on page 3)



1920's style: Weights and Measures' employees gear up for a day on the job.

Law Enforcement Career Expo Set for August 4

The Sheriff's Department will host its third annual South Bay Law Enforcement Career Expo at Alondra Park in Lawndale on August 4, 1990, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cosponsored by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Expo offers law enforcement job seekers a wide range of information about programs and career opportunities. Fifty federal, state and local law enforcement agencies will participate in

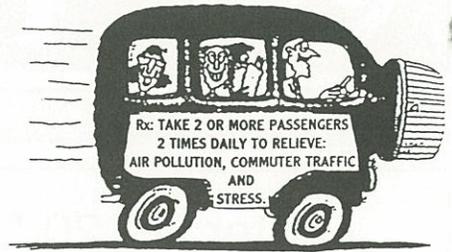
the Expo.

The Sheriff's Recruitment Unit and participating agencies will inform applicants about jobs in civilian and sworn positions. In addition, information will be available on reserve, explorer and volunteer opportunities.

The Sheriff's Department is seeking to fill 1,000 Deputy Sheriff Trainee positions by next year.

For additional information, call 1-800-A-DEPUTY or (213) 946-7011.

CONGESTION RELIEF!



Students Honored in Library Bookmark Contest

A creative cast of 15 Los Angeles-area youth nabbed first prize in the 11th annual County of Los Angeles Public Library Bookmark Contest.

The 90 County public libraries, divided into five regions, collected more than 7,500 creations from aspiring bookmark artists during the three-month contest.

The Bookmark Contest culminated during Children's Bookweek in November with judging based on creativity, originality and neatness. Winners were announced in the following months.

Pentel of America, a Torrance-based writing instruments manufacturer, sponsored the contest.

Carter: Employee of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

"And I enjoy that satisfaction," she added.

But involvement in a wide-range of community work and volunteer groups makes the difference.

At the Lancaster hospital, Carter's duties include counseling patients and conducting weekly workshops for the chronically ill.

She serves on a hospital internal marketing committee and helped streamline the hospital's discharge planning system. In addition, she played a major role in establishing a hospital employee recognition program, and organized a holiday gift program for patients. She volunteers for patient field trips and also serves as a member of the Antelope Valley Symphony Choir.

In Compton, Carter serves as youth director for her church, and as a member of Mothers Against Gangs. In addition, she has served as a counselor for a boy's home and as a child care center board member.

Where does she get the energy?

"I'm just trying to 'give back what God has so graciously given to me,'" she noted.



A glimpse at 1992: The Los Angeles County Children's Courthouse.

Children's Courthouse: First in the Nation

(Continued from page 1)

Lawyers, parents and court reporters will sit in a circle during trials so children will feel less helpless. Construction, which started in June, ends in 1992.

The building's completion will fulfill a long-standing goal of Edelman, who helped initiate efforts to create a new Juvenile Court Facility and has championed the project for more than 15 years.

Joining Edelman at the ceremonies, Supervisor Mike Antonovich said the

project is a "shining example of a public-private partnership between the County, the Superior Court, the state, the business community, local community-based organizations and California State University, Los Angeles."

Playrooms for small children will be stocked with activities, while adolescents can study, listen to music, even do aerobics in their quarters.



(L. to R.) Richard Byrne, Superior Court Presiding Judge; Pauline McCourtney, wife of the late Superior Court Judge Alfred McCourtney; Chris Campbell, California Partnerships, Inc., President; Supervisor Ed Edelman; Kan Morimoto, Kajima International, Inc., Senior Vice President; Ayao Katayama, Kajima International, Inc., Executive Vice President; Supervisor Mike Antonovich; and Frank Zolin, Superior Court County Clerk/Executive Officer.

Weights and Measures' Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

essed in the County correctly state the content of each.

The inspectors see to it that when you buy a pound of apples, you get a pound, and when the package says five muffins, you get five muffins.

To gas stations, supermarkets and retailers, the Weights and Measures inspectors are a necessary "fact of life."

While few are thrilled by violation notices, businesses usually say they appreciate the opportunity to correct their mistakes.

According to Gluck, 95 percent of all violations are unintentional and due to human error. But state law governing weights and measures requires only that prosecutors prove that the merchant inaccurately weighed or measured goods.

"We don't have to prove intent," said Gluck, whose department works closely with

prosecutors.

In March, 1989, the District Attorney won one of its biggest such cases, a \$450,000 judgment against K mart for consistent overcharging at its check-stands.

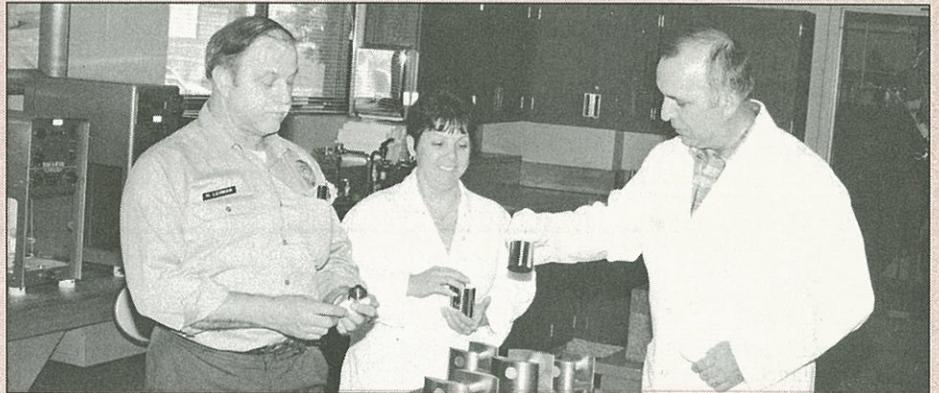
In another case, the District Attorney won a \$198,000 judgment against Target Enterprises, Inc., of Downey for deceptive practices, including selling leaded gas as unleaded and selling regular gas as premium.

Such outcomes help create a "fascinating and rewarding work environment," Gluck said; a work environment that appears to be modeled after a poster hanging on his office wall: "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord," reads the biblical passage, "but a just weight is His delight."

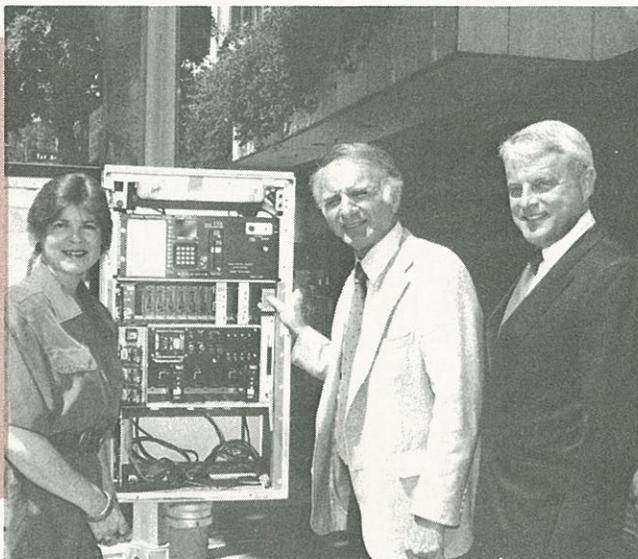


At left, Nahan Gluck with a 1,000 pound primary standard weight.

Below, staff members from the Consumer Protection Bureau in South Gate polish a set of transfer weights. (L. to R.) Inspectors Herb Lehman and Vickie Diton; and Metrologist Emil Hazarian.



New Crosswalk Helps Downtown Pedestrians



Supervisor Ed Edelman, center, activates a new traffic signal on Grand Avenue enabling simpler and safer pedestrian crossing between the Hall of Administration and Music Center. Located between First and Temple Streets, the crosswalk was designed to help stop jaywalking across the heavily congested avenue.

President Sandra Kimberling and Executive Vice President John Dunavent, both from the Music Center Operating Company, joined Edelman at the event.

Edelman initiated the project between the County and City of Los Angeles in cooperation with Mayor Tom Bradley. The crosswalk was installed by the city. 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.

Employees Invited to Mozart's

IDOMENEO

The Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles Music Center Opera invite you to attend a preview performance of a new production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Idomeneo."

Designed by famed children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak, the opera will be presented for County employees on Sep-

tember 22 at 11 a.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. A free pre-performance talk to introduce the opera will occur at 10:15 a.m. Tickets are \$7.50 per person, a savings of up to 93 percent off the regular ticket price, and include free parking.

Due to its three-hour length, the perform-

ance is not recommended for children under the age of 10.

An order form for purchasing tickets (by mail only) appears below. Be sure to order early. The deadline for ordering tickets is September 7. For advance information, call County Special Programs, (213) 974-1768.

TO OBTAIN TICKETS, PLEASE USE THIS FORM:

Yes! Please send me _____ tickets to Mozart's *Idomeneo* on Saturday, September 22, at 11:00, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion @ \$7.50 per person for a total of \$ _____.

Name _____ County Department _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Day) _____ Telephone (Evening) _____

Yes, I would like to attend the pre-performance talk at 10:15 am in the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Please detach and return with payment and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by September 7 to:

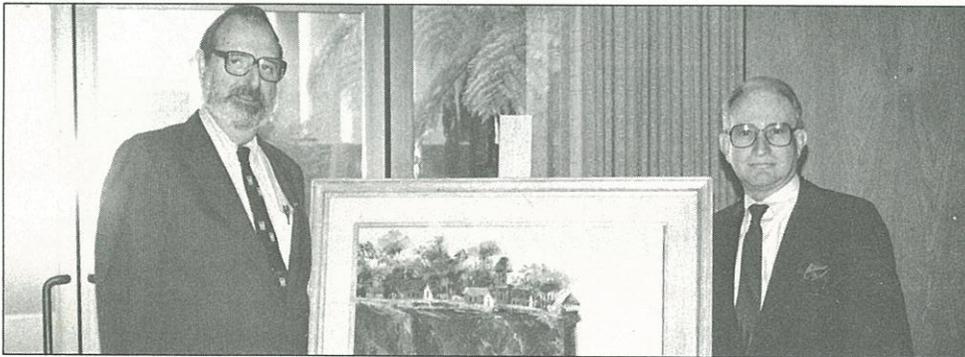
County Employee Preview
Los Angeles Music Center Opera
135 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Make checks payable to: LOS ANGELES MUSIC CENTER OPERA

ORDER DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7, 1990



Los Angeles Music Center Opera's Education and Community Programs Coordinator, Llewellyn Crain, backstage with Maurice Sendak's "Wild Things." In settings ranging from 18th century Europe to ancient Greece, from the Island of Crete to a stormy monster-filled sea, "Idomeneo" is about power, sacrifice and great tragic love.



Natural History Museum Director Dr. Craig Black, left, and Los Angeles Municipal Court Administrator Ed Kritzman with a painting by former County employee Ben Abril.

Former Employee's Paintings Donated to Museum of Natural History

The Los Angeles Municipal Court has donated eight paintings by a former County employee and noted landscape artist to the Museum of Natural History.

The paintings, which hung in various court locations during the past 20 years, are the work of Ben Abril, a 20-year County Engineer Department employee.

Exhibited in a wide range of museums, the

American Embassy in Singapore and the Vatican City Collection, Abril's paintings depict scenic areas of California and Canada.

Recently valued at \$19,000, the paintings were presented to Dr. Craig Black, Director of the Museum of Natural History, by Court Administrator Ed Kritzman. The paintings now become part of the museum's permanent collection.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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