



DIGEST

DECEMBER 17, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Gerald and Lorraine Morris

Morris: No Slowing for Super Achiever

Try picking a one-word definition for November's Employee of the Month.

After meeting Gerald Morris, a principal accountant-auditor with the Auditor-Controller Department, the task is easy: **Vanguard** -- the part of an army which goes ahead of the main body in an advance; the leading position or persons in a movement, field of endeavor, etc.

This 16-year County veteran is truly on the vanguard in both his work and personal life.

Morris was one of the first auditors to use a computer system, purchased with his own money, at work. Recognizing the need for

Employee of the Month

word processing and electronic spread sheets, Jerry equipped himself with a transportable microcomputer, printer software and other miscellaneous hardware. His efforts opened the door for the division's computerization. In addition, he developed a new cash management program which is expected to generate millions of dollars in new revenue. He also worked on or managed every major type of audit, including internal control and fraud.

Outside of work, Morris has also blazed new territory.

For 21 years, he and his wife, Lorraine, have cared for more than 100 children as foster parents. Many of the children were drug

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Auditor-Controller Retires With 42 Years of County Memories

After 42 years of service, Auditor-Controller Mark Bloodgood had a hard time "walking away" from the County. But he entered a new phase of life on November 30 — retirement.

"It's been my whole life," he said. "I've had a heck of a great time and it's hard to walk away."

But Bloodgood, who was named Auditor-Controller in 1967, won't be walking too far. He's signed up as a volunteer worker with the Sheriff's Department in La Crescenta. He's also considering working

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Auditor-Controller Mark Bloodgood, left, and Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

HOLIDAY EDITION

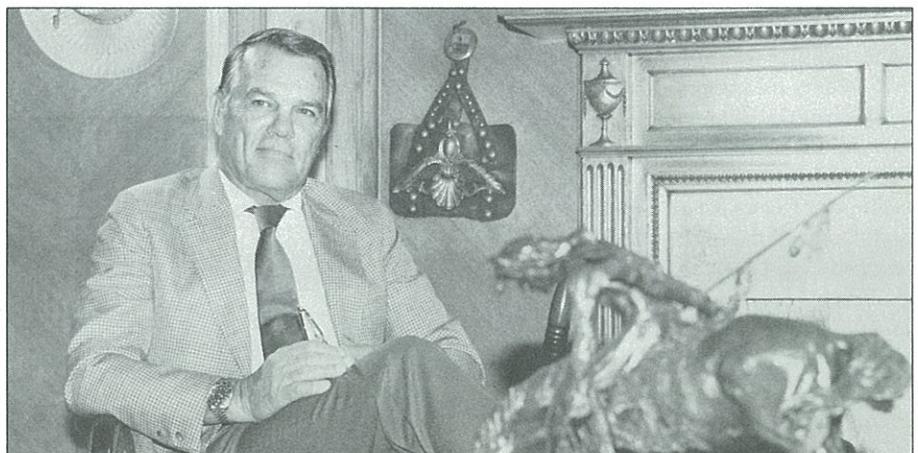
Schabarum's Farewell 'Pride' and 'Frustration' in 1990

As I leave my fifth and final term as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I feel both pride and more than a little frustration.

We have done some good things this past year, but we have also failed at others.

It was a year of change for employees, some good, some not so good. Free parking ended

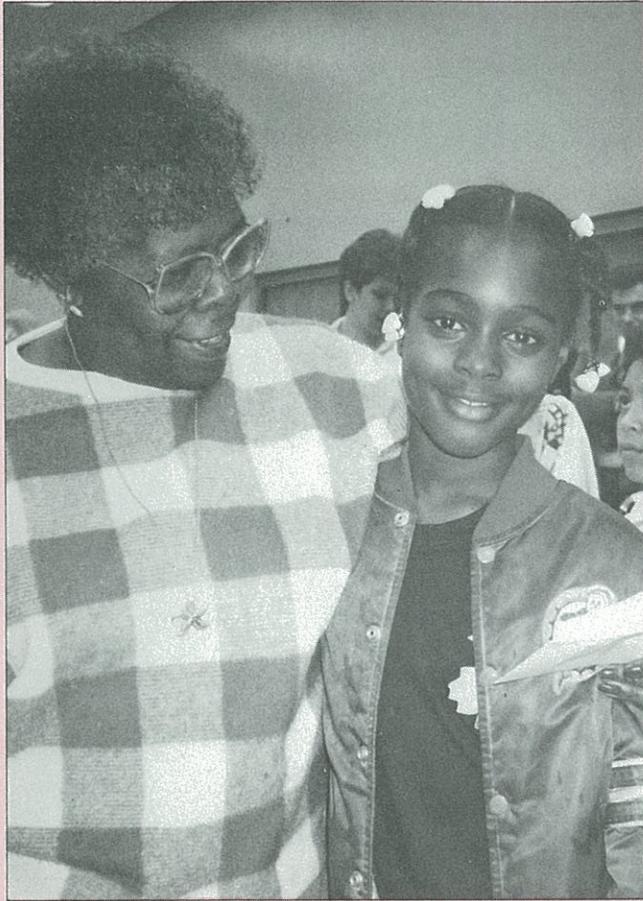
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Supervisor Pete Schabarum

Children's Services

The department is working with more than 50 banks, service organizations, businesses and churches on its holiday campaign. Some of the special efforts for the children include Roundtable Pizza's "Operation Santa Claus," featuring wish trees at 45 of their restaurants. Over at the Santa Monica Pier, business owners are sponsoring a Christmas party on the pier complete with Santa, free rides and food. In addition, many businesses, service organizations and individuals are "adopting a family" and providing special gifts, clothing and food.



Municipal Court employee Kathleen Ray with a 37th Street Children's Center student.

Municipal Court

Through bake sales, bowl-a-thons and other fund-raisers, employees raised about \$10,000 this year for kids of the Department of Children's Services. And during a November 30 holiday benefit, employees presented the check to officials from the Children's Services trust fund.



Volunteers, including Department of Public Social Services employees, wrap gifts.

Public Social Services

About 200 DPSS employees helped bring chicken, pizza and music to 200 employees at the December 16 party. Joining Shakey's Pizza Restaurants, the Love is the Answer and Santa make a surprise visit and hand out gifts to the special guests.

District Attorney

The children at Centro de Ninos y Padres, a school associated with Cal State Los Angeles, will enjoy a merrier Christmas due to a \$15,000 employee fund-raiser. The children, who come from low income families and have special needs and disabilities, received toys during a December 13 Christmas party. In addition, their families walked home with food certificates. Part of the raised money will also buy equipment for the school and help establish a special need emergency fund. Meanwhile, employees also conducted a food drive benefiting victims of violent crime and their families and families lacking child support. Employees will deliver boxes of food and toys to these families just before the holidays.



A Friends of the Library group host a holiday fund-raising book sale.

EMPLOYEES REACH OUT, HELP LESS FORTUNATE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

With Christmas just around the corner, County employees reach out to the community in some extraordinary ways. Through the holidays, thousands of needy families will celebrate a merrier Christmas due to County volunteer efforts. It's this caring profile, shared with others, that truly communicates the Christmas spirit. Happy holidays.



toys for the December 16 holiday party.

Services

500 children and their families during a December volunteer group and others, the employees watched

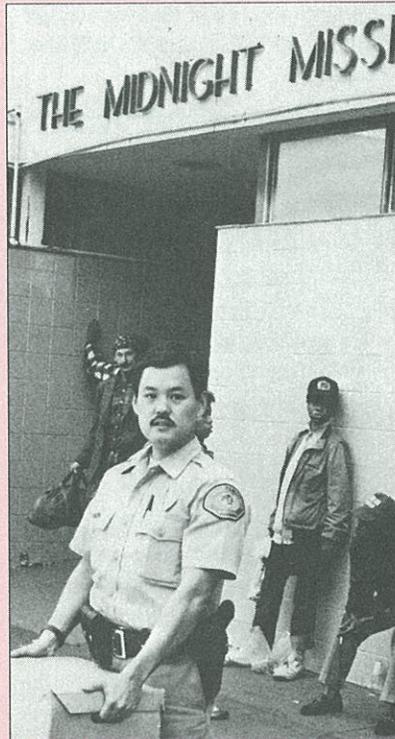


PUBLIC LIBRARY

For Public Library employees and volunteers, the holiday season brings a mixture of celebration and hard work. The Library regions hold holiday brunches and celebrations where scholarship money is raised for the Vesta Bruner Financial Aid Fund, which gives scholarships to library employees. And for the Friends of the Library, volunteers who work together to meet library needs, fund-raisers such as book sales raise money to purchase books and library equipment.

Health Services

Parties, visits from Santa, gifts and decorations are planned by hospitals to brighten the days of hospitalized patients. And staff on each floor of the Health Services Administration Building is "adopting" a needy family for the holidays, supplying food, clothing and toys. In addition, donations of food, toys and clothes are planned by many health facilities and programs.



Marshal Deputy Phil Miyazaki drops off the first of many food and clothing boxes for the homeless.

Marshal

All 36 Marshal Offices collected old clothing, blankets and canned foods for the Midnight Mission of Los Angeles. In addition, the Marshal's Association of Los Angeles County hosted a Christmas celebration December 15 for needy and low income children of Long Beach, Bellflower, Carson, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount and Signal Hill.



(L to R) Rita Lopez, Department of Public Works

Public

Employees are helping fellow workers with started by the former County Road Department. T cards for fellow workers. Instead, they contribute lies. Since 1985, more than \$18,000 has been raised lies to enjoy a merrier holiday season.

Community and Senior Citizens Services

Thousands of needy families are getting Christmas baskets this season thanks to department employees at eight service centers. The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center will distribute about 550 baskets. Over at the Florence-Firestone Service Center, Christmas trees and baskets will go to about 1,000 needy families, and staff and volunteers will host parties at two parks where Santa will give out 1,500 toys to deserving children.

Chief Administrative Office

Young patients and their families at the LAC/USC Medical Center will celebrate a merrier Christmas thanks to employee toy donations. The Charitable Giving Drive, running December 3 through 13, brought in a wide range of toys including dolls, games, infant toys, children's clothing and sporting goods.



Director Tom Tidemanson and Jean Granucci.

Works

Holiday Card Fund, a 22-year-old tradition through the fund, employees forgo buying holiday money to purchase food baskets for needy families allowing about 200 employees and their families



Donations of food and clothing by Treasurer and Tax Collector staff help the homeless.

Treasurer and Tax Collector

On December 15, staff members gathered at the Homeless Outreach Program headquarters in downtown Los Angeles to distribute a wide range of goods to the homeless. As in the past, the department helped more than 200 homeless with goods they collected such as clothing and food.

Parks and Recreation

Twelve needy families in the San Gabriel Valley will celebrate a merrier Christmas this year thanks to department staff. The San Gabriel Recreation District staff collected food, games and clothing at selected community park sites. Donations of turkeys and Christmas trees round out the holiday package. On December 22, the goods will be packed for truck delivery. Santa will ride along and visit each family, and carolers will help spread the holiday cheer.

Superior Court

Abused and neglected children are getting a helping hand during the holiday season from Superior Court employees. Participating in the Department of Children's Services Holiday Giving Program, employees provide the needy children with toys and gifts.

Internal Services

Going the extra mile during the holiday season, employees have staged a raffle, canned food drive and white elephant sale to help the unfortunate. Two fundraising events have raised more than \$600. Employees also donated canned foods for the Food Bank, which gives holiday baskets to the needy.

Museum of Art

Continuing a six-year tradition, the Museum of Art in December placed a box for canned foods at the staff entrance. During the past several years, more than 1,000 pounds has been donated to various meal-providing downtown groups. The box, which is built on wheels, is rolled into the staff holiday party as a reminder to donate.

Registrar - Recorder

Employees have adopted a foster care center for the holidays and will bring Christmas presents to needy children. The Department of Children's Services asked employees to pitch in by buying and distributing gifts to the children.



Registrar-Recorder employees get the holiday spirit.

Lifeguards Win Championships

County lifeguards dominated 1990 national championships, repeating last year's victories in the All-Women and U.S. Lifesaving Association events.

And on November 20, the life-saving heroes left the surf for a few hours to receive congratulations from the Board of Supervisors and awards from Supervisor Deane Dana.

The USLA triumph marked a "four-peat" for the Department of Beaches and Harbors guards as they established a new high in points during the two days of competition at Pompano Beach, Florida.

There was a "newness" to the win since it earned the Howard A. Lee Perpetual Trophy, being presented for the first time. The award is named in honor of the department's recently retired chief lifeguard, who helped create the



National lifeguard champions: (L to R) Shari Latta, Cindy Cleveland, Supervisor Deane Dana, Lisa Dial, Department of Beaches and Harbors Director Ted Reed, Diane Graner and Sheryl Luera.

USLA in 1964.

Beaches and Harbors' 431 points far outdistanced the 225 accumulated by runner-up California State Lifeguard Association. Monmouth County, N.J. placed third with 114.

Beaches and Harbors Director Ted Reed praised the performances of the guards and added, "These victories each year underscore the victories won on the beaches of Los Angeles County when lives are at stake."

Schabarum Bids Farewell to Employees

(Continued from page 1)

for civic center employees. A new health plan was adopted. An expanded flex benefits package was approved for nonrepresented employees. The majority of the employees of the Public Works Department went on a four-day workweek as a test case for other County departments. The fifth employee child-care center was opened. Health and mental health employees continued to be whipsawed because of the uncertainty of funding for their programs. The future of Children's Services workers was clouded when the state threatened to take over the department.

The continuing lack of financial commitment from the state poses potential dire consequences for many of our services, most notably health and mental health. If we saw a light at the end of the tunnel, we might be able to hold our ground. But it doesn't appear the state is going to assume its rightful responsibility and adequately fund these programs, so we are left with unpleasant choices.

We must dismantle these programs or raise additional revenue by cutting other departments or imposing new taxes. And whatever we do this year is only a stopgap. Come next June the County will be faced with the same dilemma. I wish there were an easy answer, but there is not one.

As I am sure you are aware, I have decided to retire from the Board of Supervisors and return to private life at the end of my term. I have been immensely honored by the opportunity to serve the people of Los Angeles County

as a member and chairman of the Board of Supervisors. I've met and worked with some very talented people. I have a deep respect for the talents and abilities of many people in County government. It is a good government.

We have problems, and I have often been a harsh critic. But when it comes down to it, this County doesn't take a backseat to anybody when it comes to being efficient and well-managed.

Auditor-Controller Retires

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as a consultant.

From his fifth-floor office in the Hall of Administration, Bloodgood reminisced about more than four decades of service. He recalled 1948 and his first County job with the Chief Administrative Office.

"I was a bookkeeper but I did all sorts of things, like chauffeur the supervisors," he said. "In those days, it was more relaxed, smaller and less complex. I'd have to make deliveries to the supervisors and I'd walk right in and shoot the breeze with them."

In 1950, he joined the Auditor-Controller's Office as an accountant auditor, and started working up the ranks. Through hard work and "being in the right place at the right time," he was appointed Auditor-Controller, which he calls the "biggest surprise" of his career.

Looking to the future, Bloodgood wishes the County "a lot of luck."

"We're in trying financial times and the fu-

Morris: Employee Of the Month

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addicted or mentally disadvantaged. They're also parents to an adopted teenage son. In 1987, the Los Angeles City Council honored the Morris family for their pioneering work as foster parents.

On the education side, Morris also stands on the vanguard.

At 46, when most folks would consider their school days finished, he is one-third through a masters degree in computer auditing at the California Polytechnic Institute in Pomona. And with a doctorate degree in law already completed, he plans to take the California Bar Examination and become an attorney. Morris is also a certified internal auditor, public accountant and information system auditor.

ture doesn't look bright," he said. "But one way or another the County will find solutions."

A Glendale native, Bloodgood is a World War II U.S. Coast Guard veteran. A father of two sons, he and his wife live in La Crescenta.

During Board ceremonies November 27, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn congratulated Bloodgood for his outstanding public service. This tribute was echoed by the full Board and an audience packed with fellow employees.

HOLIDAY PET SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season is a time of fun and festivities for people, but it poses some risks for pets, says Frank Andrews, Department of Animal Care and Control Director.

"By taking a few simple precautions, you can minimize the risk and make sure that some of the traditional trappings that help make the season special for you don't pose needless hazards to your pets," Andrews says.

Here are some things to watch for:

* Turkey and chicken bones. Turkey is a particular favorite during the holiday season

but, in both cases, the bones easily splinter and should not be given to pets. Bone splinters can puncture an animal's gastrointestinal tract, causing serious internal injury.

* Chocolate and candy. The sugar in chocolate and candy is harmful to both dog and cat digestive systems and can poison your pet. Chocolate or candy is particularly bad if your dog or cat has diabetes.

* Mistletoe contains chemicals that severely irritate pets' intestines if your dog or cat chews on the plant. And the berries on holly bushes are intoxicating and, when swallowed, cause animals to get drunk.



* Alcoholic drinks can be lures for thirsty pets. Alcohol causes the same reaction in animals as it does in humans, except pets, because they are smaller, get drunk more easily than people.

In addition to food, drink and plants, the holiday season poses other risks to pets and so require some extra caution.

* The wiring for inside or outside Christmas lighting can cause electrocution or serious shock if your pet chews on it.

* Popcorn strings can choke hungry pets who chew on them.

* Christmas tree light bulbs or shiny ornaments will shatter if chewed upon and the glass shards could cause serious internal injuries to your pet.

Free Holiday Cheer at Music Center

The 31st annual Holiday Music Program, a free 12-hour event, takes place December 24, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

As the world's longest holiday music program, the event features free parking and admission.

"Approximately 2,000 musicians and singers will participate in this year's program," said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of this free program in one of the best concert halls in the world." The program will also air live on KCET, Channel 28.

New Child Care Center Opens, Offers Help for County Employees

Calling employer-sponsored child care a "positive and growing trend," Supervisor Pete Schabarum helped open the Downey-based Rancho Los Amigos Children's Center November 30.

Speaking to about 100 guests during opening ceremonies, Schabarum said the County's involvement in quality employer-associated child care is helping shape a growing national trend.

The trend is necessary to help offset the grim realities confronting children and fami-

lies in the 1990s. Schabarum noted that every eight seconds of the school day an American child drops out, and every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected.

The center, one of five now serving employees, also helps make ridesharing and other commuter options a reality.

Operated by the Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles, the center is open Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Schutte at (213) 940-7981.



Supervisor Pete Schabarum, left, and Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Administrator Armando Lopez, Jr., open the children's center.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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