

County DIGEST



December 15, 1992

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

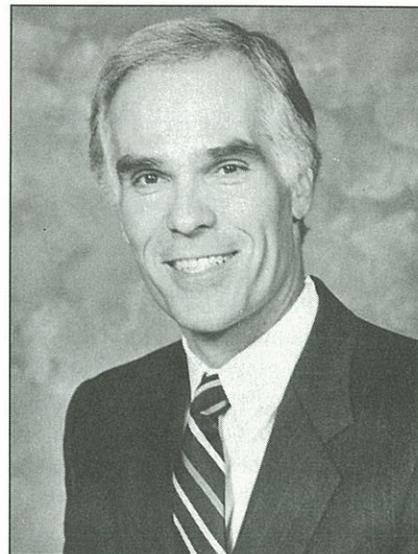


2ND DISTRICT CELEBRATION



Former Supervisor Kenneth Hahn congratulates Second District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke after the final results from the November election were announced. "Yvonne Burke is the leader for today and she will fight for the people," Hahn said. "I am so pleased that she has been elected to succeed me because I know the people will be taken care of." Burke named campaign manager Herb Wesson as chief deputy.

GARCETTI STEPS IN AS NEW D.A.



New District Attorney Gil Garcetti took office December 7 after swearing in ceremonies in the Board of Supervisors hearing room. Garcetti, who was overwhelmingly selected by the voters for the County's top law enforcement officer's job, has spent his career as a public prosecutor with the County's District Attorney's Office. Taking the oath as the County's 39th District Attorney, Garcetti pledged to make the prosecution of violent crimes his top priority. Garcetti also said he will work closer with law enforcement and drastically curb plea bargains.



Antonovich, Dana Enter New Era



Supervisor
Deane Dana

In 1980, Mike Antonovich and Deane Dana walked into new jobs with new titles — Los Angeles County Supervisors.

On December 7, both men ushered in a new era by kicking off their fourth terms at a downtown Los Angeles swearing in ceremony.

Antonovich overwhelmingly won re-election in June's primary while Dana marched to victory during the November election.



Supervisor
Mike Antonovich



Holding the keys to the County are, left to right, David Holst, James Loggins, Paul Gilbert and Jeanne Klauk.

Locksmiths Hold the County Keys

Blues great Big Bill Broonzy never met Jeanne Klauk. If he had, his classic song *Key to the Highway* might have had a follow up — *Key to the Doorway*.

"There's not a lock in the County that we can't open, or a key that we can't identify," says Klauk, an Internal Services Department Master Locksmith. "We keep a record on every key to every building, police car, jail cell, fire truck, file cabinet and desk. You name it and we can tell you what it opens."

For more than 60 years, ISD locksmiths have held the keys to the County. But the services are different from what you would find at your local hardware store. Whether duplicating keys or installing high security jail locks, the eight County locksmiths keep a fast-paced schedule and, according to department officials, offer a high degree of professionalism in an old-world craft that dates back centuries.

"You'd be surprised how many times we get a call from someone saying 'My key doesn't work.' Come to find out, he or she had a copy made at the corner drugstore," Klauk said. "When we give you a key, you get a top of the line copper or brass key that is going to work every time, probably forever."

And if a key is lost, a duplicate can be made as quickly as a phone call.

Furthermore, each district in the County has its own locksmith shop, complete with master keys, key assignments and combination lock records for every County lock, including vehicles and locked furniture within that district.

And each building uses a separate "key plan" where security, fire, handicapped and earthquake regulations are considered.

Aside from planning a building's key security, the locksmiths can take care of any lock and security requirement, including safe recombination and lockouts. What is locked can be unlocked and the staff can open even the most sophisticated lockout mechanized safe.

For more information on available services, call David Holst at 213-267-2335.

ISD Locksmith Jeanne Klauk.



McKEEVER: THE GOLDEN RULE AND MARY LOU

For 30 years, Mary Lou McKeever has upheld the golden rule of health care — treat patients like you'd treat yourself.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

And that philosophy, coupled with skills ranging from emergency care to HIV counseling, earned the Women's Hospital nurse a place in County history — as September's Employee of the Month.

"Probably the most important aspect of Mary Lou McKeever is the fact that she genuinely cares about people," a top Health Services official said. "Her combination of caring, energy and talent has undoubtedly contributed to the success of Women's Hospital's reputation of excellent patient care."

McKeever's skills also surpass registered nurse requirements and include licensing and instructor certification in natural childbirth education, lamaze and lactation, natural family planning, sterilization counseling and disaster preparedness.

She also works as a circulating operating room nurse and formerly served at the Women's Hospital emergency room.

And when the workday ends, McKeever doesn't slow down.

She just switches into a group counselor at her church and helps 175 youth get involved with sporting, educational and community events.



Mary Lou McKeever

MARIE LOPEZ: A PROFILE IN CARING



Marie Lopez

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Webster's New World Dictionary defines unselfish as "putting the good of others above one's own interests."

But for Marie Lopez, a 29-year County employee and August's Employee of the Month, the definition sums up a way of life.

As an administrative assistant with the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, Lopez works for the Weed Abatement Division and carries out a wide range of duties, including coordinating the division's work with both public and private agencies. She's also a data processing expert who helped upgrade the division's system.

But work skills don't complete the picture.

"Marie has a magnetic personality, a pleasant demeanor and always looks for the positive end results," noted a top department official. "Her work habits are exemplary and she will often work late or on weekends to meet deadlines."

But when deadlines are out of the way, her outreach efforts don't slow down.

She organized the first County sponsored Adopt-A-Highway program, enabling volunteer staff members to pick up trash one Saturday a month along a Foothill Freeway section.

In addition, Lopez volunteers as a Queen of the Valley Hospital hospice worker and with the Bienvenidos Infant Victims of Drug Abuse Child Care Agency. Efforts also include answering telephones for KCET pledge drives and volunteering as a bingo coordinator for La Puente High School.

Retirement Board Helps Rescue County During Budget Crisis

Due to a Board of Retirement and Board of Investments outreach effort, the County tabled a proposed employee pay suspension plan in September and averted other budget measures that might have caused severe employee financial hardship.

During the budget crisis, Retirement Board Chairman Bob Hermann headed up a negotiation team that allowed reduced employer contributions to the retirement system. In the end, a plan generating \$45.1 million in County savings during the current fiscal year was approved.

Under the agreement, the County receives a share of Retirement Association investment earnings after paying its annual contribution in an advanced lump sum rather than monthly installments.

Hermann, providing key leadership, insured that all retirement system changes maintained the system's integrity and involved no negative impact to members.

The Board of Supervisors on September 15 thanked the retirement board for its cooperation in assisting the County in resolving its severe budget shortfall.



Holiday Outreach

Hoping to brighten the holidays for needy youngsters, legendary philanthropist Sybil Brand, above, urges employees to donate to the County's Toy Loan Program. "Toys and kids go together but this only happens with your help," Brand said. "Together we can make many children happy." Toys, cash and time are needed. To volunteer, call 310-908-8440.

Sport Leagues Need Players

The County basketball and volleyball leagues are accepting applications for the fall-winter season. All games are played at the Weingart Urban Center YMCA, 9900 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, 90044, and take place on:

Monday — Adult Men Basketball Open League (18 and up)

Tuesday — County Coed Adult Basketball League

Wednesday — County Coed Adult Volleyball League

Thursday — 35-and-up Old-Timers Basketball League

Saturday — Youth Basketball
For more information, call Michael Williams after 5 p.m. at 213-754-3191.



A VAN'S WORLD

Employee transportation coordinators gather for a vanpool rap session during a recent Adams and Grand Complex rideshare fair. Sponsored by Local 660, Health Services, Public Social Services, Treasurer-Tax Collector and the Chief Administrative Office, the lunchtime event provided more than 100 employees with ridesharing options and information. Joining in the festivities are, from left, Fred McDowell, Health Services; Hilda Simmons, Treasurer-Tax Collector; and Anna Henderson and Judith Allen, Public Social Services.

LACERA Offers Home Loan Program

If you're looking for a new home or thinking about refinancing an existing mortgage, LACERA now offers a home loan program to its active and retired members who are qualified home buyers and owners.

The program is off to a great start, said Bob Hermann, a Board of Investments member. As of November 24, about 126 loan commitments are in progress, he added.

With mortgage rates at a 20-year-low, the program offers competitive fixed and adjustable rate mortgages.

The Board of Investments selected GMAC Mortgage to originate and service home loans as part of LACERA's mortgage investment portfolio. GMAC Mortgage, a subsidiary of General Motors Acceptance Corporation, is one of the nation's leading full-service lenders with a nationwide branch network and more than 500,000 existing customers.

For more information on the Member Home Loan Program, call GMAC Mortgage at 1-800-2 LACERA and speak with a loan officer.

Due to state budget cuts, the County Digest will be published as a quarterly newsletter.



DANA URGES SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

In an effort to brighten the lives of the less fortunate, Supervisor Deane Dana encourages all employees to participate in the Navidad En El Barrio Toy Drive.

Navidad En El Barrio is a nonprofit agency providing gifts to needy families during the holiday season.

Interested employees should contact their departmental community support coordinator for details or call 818-937-6500.



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