

County DIGEST



June 15, 1993

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

New Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Reaches the Top, Takes Office

When Bea Valdez took a \$300-a-month stenographer's job in 1957, she wasn't thinking "long term."

But after years climbing the ranks, Valdez reached "her highest professional goal" March 31 and took on a new job—Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.



BEA VALDEZ

"Not in my wildest dreams did I think this would happen," she said during an interview. "It feels wonderful to have the Board's support and confidence. It gives me tremendous sense of pride, not just for myself but for the entire staff."

Valdez, whose selection arrived on a Supervisor Mike Antonovich motion, won unanimous Board support. Since 1975 she's headed up the office's elections operations and is a 36-year veteran of the department.

In her new post, she's also in charge of maintaining property records, issuing marriage licenses, notary bonds and filing fictitious business name statements. In addition, the recorder keeps track of birth, death and marriage certificates and can also record military discharges. On a daily basis, the office takes in between 8,000 and 10,000 new property documents and provides 2,000 copies of vital records to customers.

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ARTHUR HIRSHBERG, CENTER, RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS FROM SUPERVISORS YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE AND MIKE ANTONOVICH.

Encino Resident Named County Volunteer of the Year

During the past nine years, Arthur Hirshberg reached out to the community and developed employment training programs—for free. But a payoff arrived April 28: Hirshberg won the 1993 County Volunteer of the Year honor.

"I was shocked and a little weak in the knees," said Hirshberg, during an interview following the County's 11th Annual Volunteer Recognition and Awards Luncheon at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. "If I knew the award was coming, I would have made a speech."

Volunteering on the County's Private Industry Council since 1984, he took over as chairman in 1991. The Council guides and oversees the County's involvement in the federal Job Training Partnership Act Program.

During his tenure, more than 50,000 County citizens received job training, placement and training in basic reading and writing skills.

(Continued on page 3)

SOS: Library Sends Out Call For Help

In the wake of slashed state funding, the County Public Library has launched its first fund-raising campaign to buy books and materials for its 85 branches. Called *Count Me In*, the campaign follows last year's drop in state revenues, which caused buying power to shrink 60 percent and 10 libraries to close. And the picture looks worse this year.

Library officials project cuts that could change the Library's future.

Set up for financial donations, the campaign needs your help. Contributions will be divided among all libraries and will buy books and materials.

Make your tax-deductible donation to *The Los Angeles County Public Library Foundation* and mail it to *Count Me In Campaign*, 7400 East Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242.

From Crime Underworld to Owls: All In a Day's Work for Three Employees

Try decoding Asian gang graffiti. Or rescuing wayward owls. How about keeping track of weapons and drugs used in crimes. Tough jobs? Sure. But for three employees it's all in a day's work.



CHRISTOPHER KUK AND BOARD CHAIRMAN ED EDELMAN.

Christopher Kuk, a deputy probation officer and **JANUARY'S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**, works in the Probation Department's Asian Gang Unit, the only one of its kind in the U.S. Whether interpreting gang graffiti or solving crisis situations, Kuk helps civic leaders, the Chinese community and other police agencies understand the workings of Asian gangs. Profiled in many newspaper articles, Kuk received top honors from the Chief Probation Officers of California for his groundbreaking efforts.

With 30 years County service, Catharine Oshita also delves into the crime underworld. Working for the Sheriff's Department, Oshita oversees and maintains the highly technical and complex crime lab. Now known as **FEBRUARY'S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**, she's also responsible for maintaining articles collected as evidence in crimes, such as narcotics and guns. According to department officials, she is always "at her post, willing to do any job asked and performs assignments in a highly competent manner."



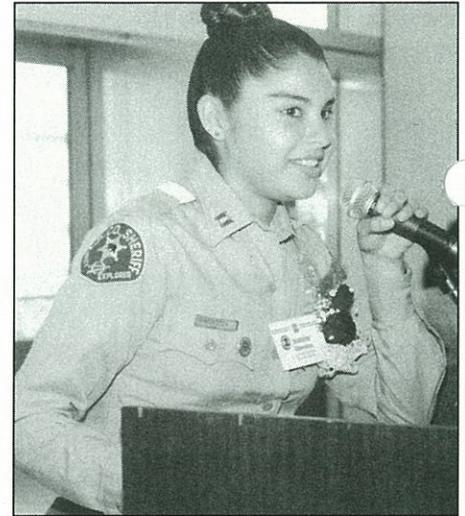
CATHARINE OSHITA AND BOARD CHAIRMAN ED EDELMAN.

Ronald Edwards, **MARCH'S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**, is also known for going the extra mile. Over at the Animal Care and Control Department, Edwards heads the new Communication Operations Center, which handles more than 11,000 service calls a month for the Downey, Carson and Baldwin Park animal care centers.

Edwards, who also volunteers as a reserve animal rescue officer, has rescued a wide range of critters, including an owl from the California State University, Los Angeles roof.



RONALD EDWARDS AND SUPERVISOR DEANE DANA.



NATALIE MENDOZA, A SHERIFF DEPARTMENT EXPLORER, ADDRESSES A PACKED HOUSE AT THE DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION APRIL 28 AFTER RECEIVING THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

1993 Youth Volunteer of the Year

EXPLORING THE EXPLORER

Natalie Mendoza, a 20-year-old Sheriff explorer who volunteered more than 2,500 hours during the past five years, has been named the 1993 County Youth Volunteer of the Year.

As a captain at the Sheriff's Industry Station, the Cal State Fullerton student helps with a wide range of duties, including fingerprinting, bicycle licensing and answering the public's questions.

She also serves as a drill instructor at the Sheriff's Training Academy, where she lectures and stresses moral and educational values.

For Mendoza, volunteering is a way of life.

"I am able to impact the lives of young people and help them begin the foundation for a successful life," she said.

Sheriff Sherman Block says Mendoza's reach is widespread.

"The enthusiasm, spirit and motivation that she has demonstrated has earned her the respect of her fellow explorers, station personnel, but more importantly, the community she serves," he said.

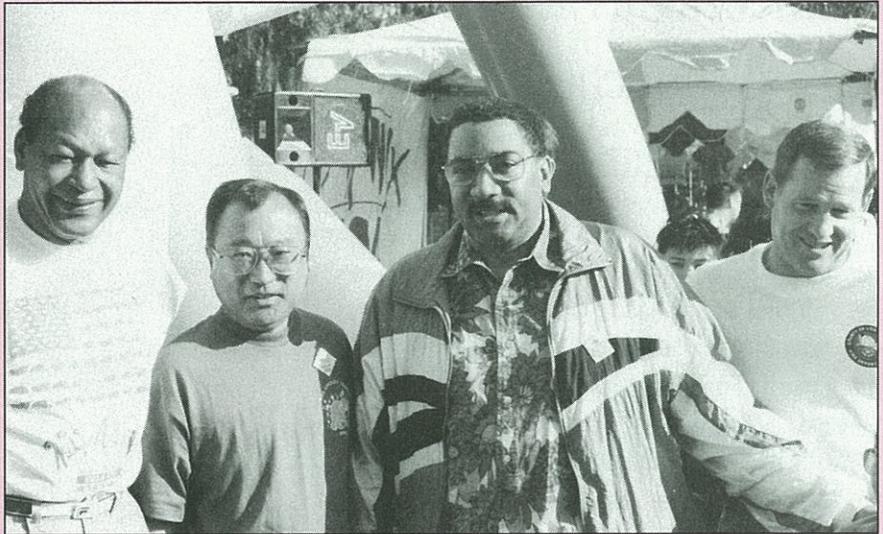
Volunteer of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

While representing the County on rebuild L.A. and President Bush's Task Force on Riot Recovery, Hirshberg also spent more than 200 hours last year on recovery-related activities.

"I have always been interested in education of all types, whether it be for job skills or basic skills," he said. "As a private sector businessman, I understand the significance of work to an individual and I know how important it is for the Los Angeles community to have a highly skilled and trained work force."

As a vital cog in making public service work, County volunteers are part of each department's day-to-day operations. In 1992, more than 96,000 volunteers contributed over 4.9 million hours of service, valued at over \$56.7 million.



JOINING FORCES

COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS START THE ANNUAL MARCH OF DIMES WALK/AMERICA APRIL 24 IN GRIFFITH PARK. MORE THAN 3,000 EMPLOYEES SHOWED UP TO HELP STAMP OUT BIRTH DEFECTS. FROM LEFT ARE MAYOR TOM BRADLEY, DPSS DIRECTOR EDDY TANAKA, POLICE CHIEF WILLIE WILLIAMS AND COUNTY FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL FREEMAN.

Dodger Night Wraps Up Bonds Drive

To wrap up the 1993 U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign, the County will host the second annual Family Night at Dodger Stadium on September 11.

Reserved tickets are \$8 for the 7:05 p.m. game against the Florida Marlins and are now available through departmental savings bonds coordinators or by calling 213-974-2172.

Whether saving for retirement or a college education, Savings Bonds can get the job done. For as little as \$12.50 per month, you can join the Savings Bonds program. Contact your departmental coordinator for details.

Bea Valdez: New Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

(Continued from page 1)

Every year, the department participates in about 200 elections and maintains about 6,700 precincts.

Looking to the future, Valdez says the challenge is keeping the department operating at top ability during tough economic times.

"My primary goal is to maintain a high level of service to the citizens," she said. "Their confidence in the election process is crucial" and will not be diminished.

Valdez is also excited about moving into the department's new Norwalk headquarters. Scheduled for a July 6 completion, the move will shift the department from the Hall of Records and Los Angeles County Courthouse to 12400 East Imperial Highway.

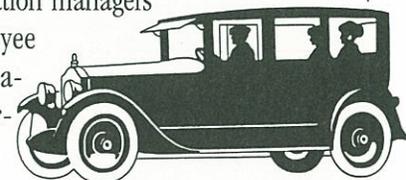
"We'll be able to provide a better service to the public since our resources will be pooled together in one location," she said.

Employees Get "Guaranteed" Ride Home July 1

Ridesharing employees in emergency or family crisis situations get a "guaranteed" ride home under a new program starting July 1.

Open to employees who carpool, vanpool or ride public transit, the *County-wide Guaranteed Ride Home Program* offers taxi service, public transit or short-term car rental. County vehicle use or co-worker provided rides are also available when approved by department policy.

On July 1, request forms and taxi vouchers will be available through departmental transportation managers or employee transportation coordinators.



Summer Nights at the Ford Launches Inaugural Season

Summer Nights at the Ford, a new series featuring music, dance, theater and opera, runs through September 12 at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood.

"This is the most ambitious and wide-ranging program at the Amphitheatre to date," Board Chairman Ed Edelman said. "It is our hope that 'Summer Nights' will make the Ford a focus for the performing arts in Los Angeles..."

Maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the theatre sits on a hillside in the Cahuenga Pass, just off the Hollywood Freeway north of the Hollywood Bowl. Built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration, the 1,200-seat facility provides a wild, natural backdrop for the performing arts.

The performance schedule includes:



DANZA FLORICANTO/USA, THE OLDEST PROFESSIONAL MEXICAN DANCE TROUPE IN LOS ANGELES, HITS THE JOHN ANSON FORD AMPITHEATRE AUGUST 22.

June 16 International Association of Jazz Appreciation—A Junteenth Celebration with Bobby Lyle and Straight Ahead

June 18-19 Euterpe Opera in Mozart's "Zaide"

June 21 Debussy Trio in "A Concert for the Summer Solstice"

July 19 Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber Concert Number 1; Colorado Quartet performing Schubert, Janacek and Ravel

July 30 Collage Dance Theater in "Eye to Eye"

August 4-5 Los Angeles Chamber Ballet
August 14, 19, 21 Long Beach Opera in Bizet's "Carmen"

August 22 Danza Floricanto/USA with Mariachi Mexicipan & Armonia Azul

August 31-Sept. 5, Sept. 7-12 Stages Theatre Center presents the California premiere of "La Bete," a hip adaptation of Moliere's "The Misanthrope."

Call for a free color brochure, 213-466-1767.



PRESIDENTIAL STOPOVER

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke welcomed President Bill Clinton to the Second District May 19, where he visited a Florence Avenue sporting goods store. "The recession has taken its toll on the County, where more than 200,000 jobs have been lost in two years," said Burke, during a brief meeting with Clinton. "We need more funding from the federal government, especially in the critical area of health services." Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, right, and Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty accompanied the President on his visit.

County DIGEST

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Commuter Connection

June 15, 1993

Vol. 2, Issue No. 5

RIDERS WANTED



County vanpool drivers gather at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for a rap session.

Seats are now available on vans arriving at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration from:

WEST COVINA — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

INGLEWOOD/HAWTHORNE — 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PERRIS/MORENO VALLEY — 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PALMDALE/LANCASTER — 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CHINO HILLS — 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

RIALTO — 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MONTCLAIR — 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, call Vanpool Manager Ruben Rivero, 213-974-8481.

GRIDLOCK AVENUE L.A.'S SLOWEST INTERSECTIONS

While the County and other agencies work on long-term solutions to traffic congestion, here are a few intersections to steer clear of during rush hours, listed in order of congestion severity.

1. Pacific Coast Highway and Chautauqua Boulevard, Pacific Palisades
2. Venice Boulevard and Overland Avenue, Culver City
3. Imperial Highway and Carmenita Road, Santa Fe Springs
4. Azusa Boulevard and Amar Road, West Covina
5. Sepulveda Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue, Manhattan Beach
6. Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills
7. Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills
8. Fremont Avenue and Valley Boulevard, Alhambra
9. Victory Boulevard and Reseda Boulevard, Reseda
10. Artesia Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach

Source: MTA Congestion Management Program



ALL THAT IDLES ISN'T BAD

A limited period of idling, such as at a drive-through window, can be less polluting than stopping and starting your engine.

An automobile must idle as much as 10 minutes — in some cases more — before it emits as much carbon monoxide and other pollutants as when the vehicle has been turned off and started again in that same period of time.

Reading and Riding: Audio Express Makes it Happen

Audio Express, a convenient audio books-by-mail service from the County of Los Angeles Public Library, adds leisure time to commuting and is now available to all employees.

The collection includes full-length readings of best sellers, classics, mysteries, general fiction and nonfiction, as well as business management and language instruction cassettes.

Customers may order catalogs and audio books by mail, by a toll-free telephone number or by fax.
Call for a free catalogue: 1-800-253-0591

FREEWAY PATROL KEEPS ON EXPANDING

The Metro Freeway Service Patrol, which rescues stranded motorists with tow trucks, recently expanded to include 50 more miles on five freeways. The patrol now covers 306 miles of Los Angeles County freeways and highways, providing free emergency assistance such as gas, changing flat tires, jump-starting batteries or towing to CHP-approved locations next to the freeways.

The additional areas now patrolled during rush hours include 9.8 miles along the Hollywood Freeway from Reseda to Las Virgenes Road; 10.5 miles of the Long Beach Freeway from Willow to Firestone; 10.6 miles on the Santa Ana Freeway from Hollywood Way to Stadium Way; 4.7 miles of the Pasadena Freeway from Avenue 43 to Glenarm Street and 14.5 miles of Highway 118.

Problem? What problem? A Metro Freeway Service Patrol driver shows all the tricks of the trade.



REGULATION XV UPDATE

Taking effect in September, new regional trip reduction polices will offer employees and employers greater incentives to rideshare and include:

- Employees with on-site child care may receive carpool credit in Regulation XV plans when arriving with children.
- Clean fuel and electric vehicles will count as 10-person carpools.

—All employers must submit an annual analysis and a biennial plan. Those who reach and maintain their AVR goal may skip the plan and submit only the analysis.

—Employers will earn a full credit for workers telecommuting at a neighborhood telebusiness center if they usually drive over 20 miles to work. Those workers who drive fewer than 20 miles to work earn a half credit if they reduce their normal trip more than 50 percent.



Published quarterly for employees of the County of Los Angeles



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