

County DIGEST



September 15, 1993

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

26-Year Veteran Gets Top Auditor's Position

Alan Sasaki, a 26-year County veteran who started as an Assessor's trainee and worked up the ranks in several departments, is the new Auditor-Controller.

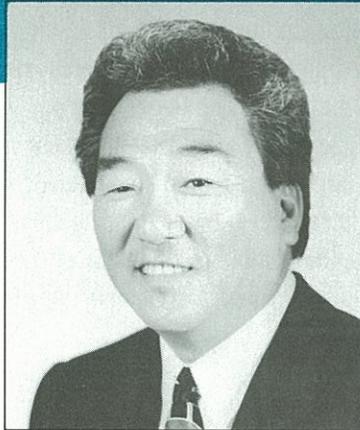
Selected August 10 by the Board of Supervisors, Sasaki beat out 133 other applicants for the job. For the past 5½ months, he has served as Interim Auditor-Controller.

"My appointment is testimony to the many hard-working County employees I've had the privilege of working with," Sasaki said. "The outstanding work they continue to do is appreciated."

Since taking office, the 51-year-old has consolidated the auditing and information systems branches and focused on wrapping up the department's automation. These efforts increased productivity and will "minimize the impact of budget reductions," he said.

Looking to the future, Sasaki said he'll continue the department's independence and objectivity in performing audits and will further upgrade the quality of services and information to the Board, public and County departments.

Sasaki spent most of his career in the Data Processing Department, where he served in both the systems and programming and operations branches. In November 1988, after reaching the deputy director rank, he transferred to the Auditor-Controller, where he served as program spe-



ALAN SASAKI

cialist, assistant auditor-controller and chief deputy.

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Supervisors OK Sixty-Day Unpaid Leaves

In an effort to solve the County's budget crisis, the Board of Supervisors has agreed to let workers take voluntary time off for up to 60 days a year.

Under the plan, employees will not lose health or other benefits normally associated with unpaid leaves.

In order to maintain critical public services, requests must be approved by the employee's department head.

Critical workers essential to public service or requiring paid overtime to provide coverage will not be eligible.

Employees will also be able to take leaves longer than 60 days but with a loss of benefits.

For more information, contact your department personnel office.

NEW CHALLENGE



Sally Reed, Santa Clara County's Chief Executive since 1981, takes over as the County's new Chief Administrative Officer October 18. The first woman to hold the post in the County's 117-year history, Reed succeeds Interim CAO Harry Hufford. "I am very impressed with the Board and look forward to working with them," Reed said. "I am excited about the challenge."

TRIPLE STRENGTH Round-the-clock Protection

Protection.

That's the bottom-line task for three employees. Whether keeping parks safe from gang blight or protecting senior citizens from rip-offs, the jobs never stop.



SUPERVISOR DEANE DANA AND SUSAN SHARER

Susan Sharer, a community and recreation safety specialist and **APRIL'S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**, works at the Parks and Recreation Department's Mayberry Park. Tagged by the Sheriff's Department as gang plagued, the Whittier recreation area received a new life under Sharer's care. Known for caring about and understanding gang problems, Sharer faced life-threatening situations in her fight to clean up the park.

With 18 years County service, Rudy Duarte also knows about cleaning up "hazardous" situations. Working for the Mental Health Department, Duarte investigates cases where senior citizens can no longer care for themselves due to mental illness or health problems. Working closely with L.A. Police, District Attorney and Sheriff employees, Duarte resolves tricky legal entanglements and protects clients from losing money to rip-off artists. For his work, folks now know him as **MAY'S**

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH.



RUDY DUARTE RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS FROM SUPERVISOR MIKE ANTONOVICH.

Dawn Hembree, **JUNE'S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**, is also known for protecting lives. As High Desert Hospital's disaster coordinator, this Health Services employee picked up the hospital's Safety Person of the Month award twice. During her tenure, she's made a wide range of safety improvements, including plans for handling accidents involving radioactive material. She's also a registered disaster communications service worker and an amateur radio operator.



DAWN HEMBREE AND BOARD CHAIRMAN ED EDELMAN.

Four-Day Workweek Expanded



oping to save \$4.1 million in annual operating costs, the Board of Supervisors in August approved plans to expand a four-day workweek in all departments except those essential to public health and safety services.

In an August 9 letter, Interim Chief Administrative Officer Harry Hufford asked department heads to identify facilities which may be closed one day a week.

Each department's plan to shift to a four-day, 10-hour-a-day work schedule must be approved by the Board.

So far, eight departments have closed various worksites one day a week. The agencies are Public Works, Regional Planning, Parks and Recreation, Community and Senior Citizens Services, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Internal Services and Mental Health. Public Social Services headquarters started the 4/40 schedule in September.

A four-day work schedule is not new.

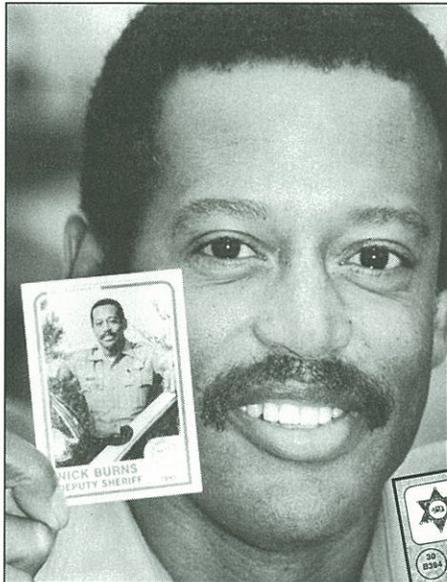
In 1990, the Board approved Public Works' request to switch its Alhambra headquarters to a 4/40 program.

The shorter week also helps the County clean the air and meet federal requirements for cutting trips during peak traffic hours.



RECYCLE

DEPUTIES GET TRADED IN NEW CARSON SHUFFLE



DEPUTY NICK BURNS SHOWS ONE OF THE 128 COLLECTIBLE CARDS.

When it comes to name recognition, Deputy Nick Burns is no match for Babe Ruth or Mickey Mantle.

But a two-month-old program to distribute Sheriff trading cards in Carson is making the 13-year County veteran a star among area youth.

"The youngsters are just ecstatic," said Burns, whose given out more than 100 cards so far. "Some youth are afraid to approach us but this breaks the ice. It gives them a positive side to law enforcement."

Following Santa Clarita's lead, Carson city officials approved the \$11,200 pro-

gram in October 1992 to promote the department and foster better communication between youth and deputies.

According to Captain Joe James, 128 deputies are featured in the set with a different message from each deputy.

In the end, officials hope the relationship will steer kids from gangs and drug abuse.

Deputy Matt Schwabe's message might just help in that pursuit and says: "Your hard work today in everything you do will pay off tomorrow. Always remember we sometimes don't realize what we have until we lose it. Try your hardest in everything you do and never give up."



SELF-HELP CORNER:

Detox With Mini-Vacations

If your energy on Sunday night hasn't improved, you might not be using leisure time effectively.

To improve the situation, Dr. Peter Hanson suggests approaching each weekend as a mini-vacation. As author of *The Joy of Stress* and *Stress for Success*, Hanson also recommends doing "something that will create wonderful memories."

Other suggestions include:

▲ **Avoid feeling guilty about having fun during your free time. Learn to enjoy things the way a child does.**

▲ **Don't turn hobbies and sports into goal-oriented tasks. For example, don't try to set new records at bicycling or swimming. Learn to play for the sake of play.**

▲ **Don't take part in an activity because it's the "in thing" to do. Do only what you really enjoy doing.**

▲ **Separate work and play as much as possible. Avoid too many work-related outings.**

▲ **And don't put off things you really want to do. You may never get to do them.**

GETTING TOGETHER



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke thanks the board of directors of One Church, One Child for supporting the June 26 Black Adoption Festival, sponsored annually by the Department of Children's Services. "There are many African-American children in the County's foster care system who need loving families," said Burke. "One Church, One Child is a unique program that works directly with the local churches to place adoptive children with caring families." Joining Burke are, from left, Children's Services Director Peter Digre, Rev. Carolyn Tyler, Norman Johnson, Albert Starr and Children's Services coordinator Alberta Folk.



SHAPING UP AS A DUAL WINNER, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES WON BOTH THE LARGEST CASH CONTRIBUTION PER CAPITA AND DEPARTMENT OF DISTINCTION AWARDS. FROM LEFT ARE: SANDRA REUBEN, COMMUNITY SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD VICE CHAIR; DPSS EMPLOYEES MARY SHERMAN-JONES AND ELISSA NUNEZ; DPSS DIRECTOR EDDY TANAKA; SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE; AND JOHN WYROUGH, CSAB CHAIRMAN.

Campaign Raises \$2.3 Million; Agencies To Kickoff '93 Drive

Continuing its outreach to needy residents, the County kicks off its 1993 Community Support Campaign October 4. Running until December 10, the campaign raises cash for a wide range of community groups and services. Last year, employees donated \$2.3 million. In their own words, the six fund distribution agencies send a note of thanks.

Asian Pacific Community Fund: \$23,291

On behalf of our Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Southeast Asian service agencies and the board of directors, thank you for your contributions to maintain vital and needed programs. Our volunteers will constantly strive to earn your continued confidence.

Brotherhood Crusade: \$589,053

The Brotherhood Crusade and the various health, education and welfare programs we assist thank you for your generous support during the 1992 Community Support Program. Your efforts make possible the continuation of vital services in our local communities.

Earth Share of California: \$31,012

Your generous contributions to Earth Share of California and its 76 member groups demonstrate your commitment to the environment. This helps address issues to protect human health and welfare. Thank you.

Los Angeles Women's Foundation: \$30,656

Thank you for making the needs of women and girls a priority for your charitable giving. Your contributions helped fund services for women and children who are homeless, at risk for HIV and provided skills training and counseling and much, much more. On their behalf, we thank you.

United Latino Fund: \$26,579

The United Latino Fund is very proud to assist County employees in targeting the direction of their donations. County employees have expressed their deep concerns through contributions to the fund distribution agency of their choice. We salute you.

United Way: \$1,625,311

Your United Way contributions supported 300 human service agencies that helped more than 3 million people in 72 cities and county areas. On their behalf, United Way thanks you for caring.

RIDESHARE WEEK



**Moving in the
Right Direction**

October 4-8, 1993

**Reduce road and highway
gridlock:**

- CARPOOL
- VANPOOL
- PUBLIC TRANSIT
- BICYCLE

County DIGEST

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The Digest is published to provide news and information of interest to the employees of the County of Los Angeles.

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