

County DIGEST



JUNE 15, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Child Advocate Named 1994 County Volunteer of the Year

Iris Shaw has seen it all: children victimized by satanic cults; others torn by sexual abuse.

As a Superior Court volunteer, she's donated more than 15,000 hours during the past decade as a special advocate for children entangled in the legal world.

But her volunteer work, while paying no money, brought home a special reward recently: Shaw won the 1994 County Volunteer of the Year honor.

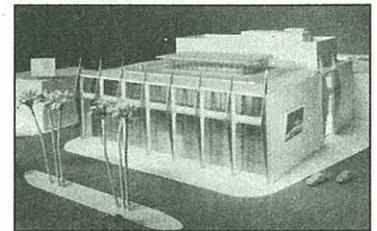
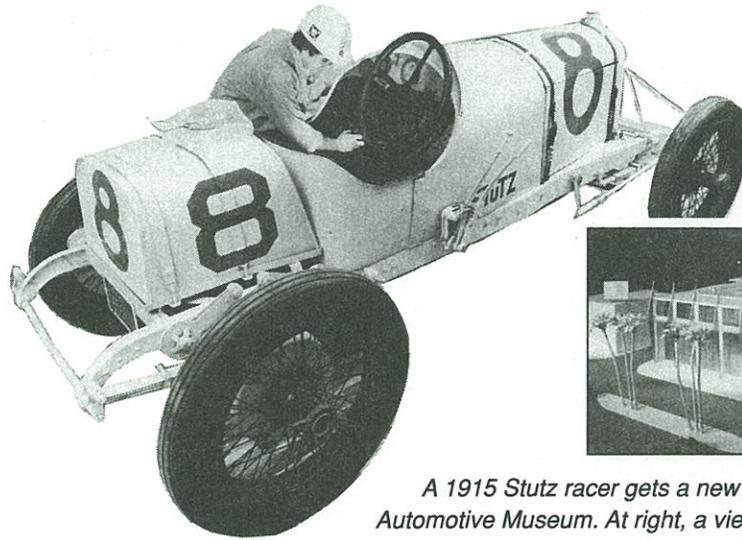
"She has demonstrated, to the highest degree, commitment to helping abused children in our community," said Edward Kritzman, Executive Officer/Clerk of the Administratively Unified Courts. "Despite tremendous pressures, she has always rigorously protected the privacy of the children and ensured their required participation in the proceedings was handled with sensitivity toward their needs."

The job isn't for the weak.

While Shaw holds both master and
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Chief Administrative Officer Sally Reed, right, congratulates Volunteer of the Year Iris Shaw.



A 1915 Stutz racer gets a new life at the Petersen Automotive Museum. At right, a view from the outside.

\$40-Million Auto Museum Gets Green Light, Opens in L.A.

Burning rubber and gasoline hit the big time June 11 when the \$40-million Petersen Automotive Museum got the green light and opened its doors in L.A.'s Miracle Mile district.

Owned and operated by the County's Natural History Museum, the 300,000 square-foot, four-story building is one of the world's largest automotive museums.

"What has been recreated is a 20th Century road map of the evolution of a culture that has influenced life in all of America," said Craig Black, Executive Director of the Natural History Museum.

"It's a story that can only be told and experienced in Los Angeles," Black added, "because this is the only major city that was entirely shaped by the automobile. It's growth is totally related to the motor car."

The facility, which boasts indoor

parking for 1,000 cars, is located at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue where 70 years ago the world's first linear downtown dedicated to the emerging auto age was developed — the Miracle Mile, with its wide store windows set close to the sidewalk and street and large rear entrances to accommodate the traffic.

The museum features permanent exhibits on the first floor that trace the history of the automobile. Periodically, the vehicles in those displays will be changed. The second floor is devoted to five large, rotating exhibition galleries with state-of-the-art displays of race cars, classics, early motorcycles, prototypes, movie cars, technology, design and marketing. The third floor represents art and education, featuring galleries, a library and a classroom. A roof pavilion, kitchen

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1994 County Youth Volunteer Honored

Cash doesn't control Leigh Kaneshiro's life.

As this year's Youth Volunteer of the Year, the 21-year-old has racked up more than 250 hours helping others — for free.

As a senior in the special education program at Whittier Union High School, she spends her free time in the mail room at the Norwalk Public Social Services office.

Whether she's stuffing envelopes, opening mail or cleaning and organizing shelves, Kaneshiro is a joy to work with, DPSS officials said.

"Leigh eagerly volunteers each day as if it were her first," said Pamela Collins, a DPSS Human Services Administrator. "She has a wonderful sense of humor and is sensitive to the needs of others."

According to Collins, Leigh is also well-organized and meticulous while her work is neat and precise.



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, right, and Leigh Kaneshiro

Auto Museum

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and corporate conference center are part of the fourth floor.

The museum carries the name of Robert Petersen, a long-time Southern California automobile enthusiast who is a trustee of the Natural History Museum's Foundation.

It was Petersen, chairman and founder of Petersen Publishing Company, who provided the momentum for the project by donating \$15 million to acquire the old Ohrbach's building and launch its renovation for the museum.

Child Advocate

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doctorate degrees in law, she hasn't sought out personal fame and fortune.

As a court appointed advocate, she gets to know children as people not just case numbers and gathers information from all other parties involved in the child's life, including foster par-

ents, teachers and therapists.

She appears at all judicial proceedings with a child and makes written reports and recommendations to judges.

"Her actions exemplify selfless giving in its highest form and community service at its very best," Kritzman added.

Two Employees Keep an Eye on Spring, Year-Round

Spring: a time of newness and renewal. And for two award-winning employees, it's also a year-round state of mind.

Jose Del Castillo, April's Employee of the Month and a grounds maintenance worker, keeps the Spring perspective by continual-

ly improving and updating the Lakewood and Alondra golf courses.

A 21-year Parks and Recreation employee, Jose's job includes all aspects of grounds maintenance and landscaping. He developed important techniques for reseeding the courses, which reduced the amount of care needed.

In addition, he supervises workers employed under the general relief program and those who have been referred by the courts.

Jennifer Bevington, May's Employee of the Month, has also reached new heights in her career at the Museum of Natural History.

As an assistant chief of education, Jennifer works on fund-raising, exhibit development and a wide range of other tasks.

She's worked nonstop on the new Petersen Automotive Museum and has helped set up exhibits on tropi-

cal rain forests and the rolling Earthmobile.

As vice president of the Museum Educators of Southern California, Jennifer has been honored by the City of Long Beach and the National Association of Counties for her community work, which includes christian reach-out efforts in Watts.



Supervisor Deane Dana, left, congratulates Jose Del Castillo and Golf Course Manager John Castaneda.



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke congratulates Jennifer Bevington

In The Swim, Speedo Style

It's shaping up as a Speedo summer.

Under a new marketing agreement approved by the Board of Supervisors in May, the Los Angeles-based apparel line is now the official swim wear of County beaches and lifeguards.

The plan allows Authentic Fitness Corp. to use the County's name to advertise its Speedo apparel. In exchange, Authentic will pay a fee and provide clothes and equipment to lifeguards and youth groups.

"I think it's a win-win situation for the sponsor and the County," said Stan Wisniewski, Beaches and Harbors Director. "They get name recognition and we're able to provide a service to the public."

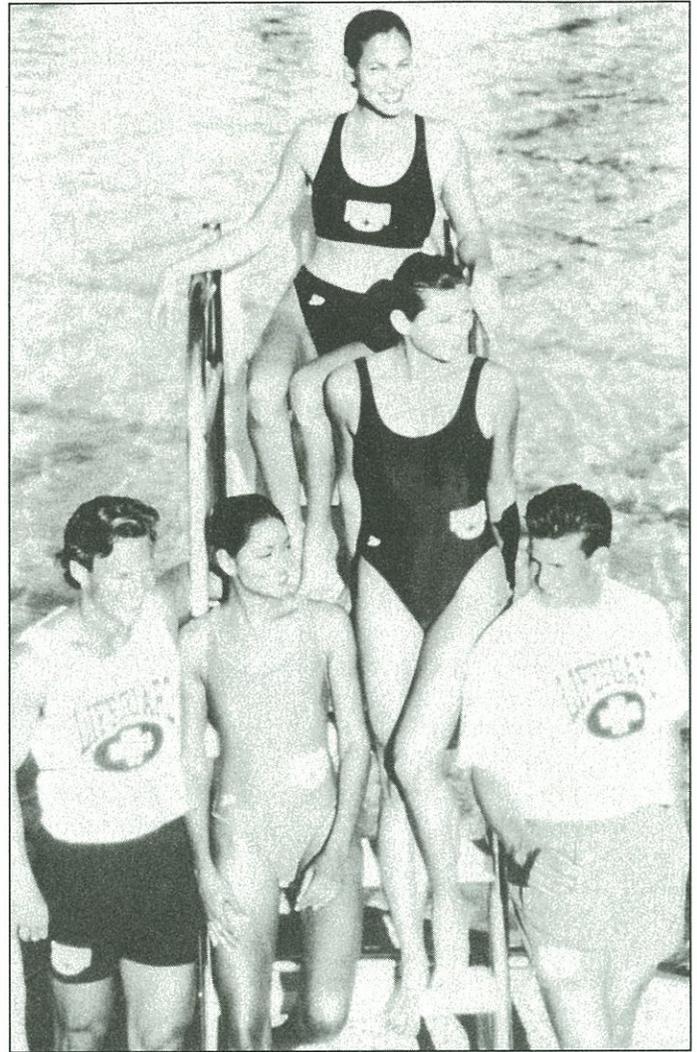
The deal could add \$272,000 to the County's bottom line over the next three years.

In the first year, the company will pay the County \$5,000. Authentic also has the option to renew the agreement for two years, for fees of \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Authentic will also outfit County lifeguards with 980 uniforms — white polo-style shirts and swim trunks for men and swimsuits for women. In addition, it will donate 60 volleyball nets valued at \$9,000, to the beaches.

The company will use the lifeguards logo on its products and display the Speedo name on the volleyball nets.

To offset budget shortfalls, the County has been selling the right to advertise on beach benches, trash cans and sun shelters since the mid-1980s.



Compressed Natural Gas: The Future is Now

Calling it an "investment in clean air," Supervisor Mike Antonovich unveiled the

County's first compressed natural gas fueling station May 2 and said plans are underway to build 97 more during the next six years.

Installed by the Southern California Gas Co. at no County expense, the station is located at the Internal Services' headquarters on Eastern Avenue in Los Angeles.

"Compressed Natural Gas is a safe, affordable and clean alternative to smog-belching diesel and regular gasoline,"

Antonovich said. "In the first year, the inaugural 58 vehicles using this site will eliminate in excess of 10 tons of air pollutants."

Natural gas vehicles operate 90 percent cleaner than their gasoline counterparts. The fuel is abundantly available in North America and costs about 85 cents a gallon. With 50,000 natural gas vehicles now in North America, experts say more than 1 million will be on the road by the year 2000.

"I am particularly proud of the County Fire, Sheriff, Health and Internal Services departments who are using this clean fuel for their fleet vehicles," Antonovich said.



Supervisor Mike Antonovich, left, and ISD Director William Stewart inspect a County van fueled by compressed natural gas.

L.A.: Paradise for Con Men and Rip-off Artists

For con men and rip-off artists, the nation's largest County proves fertile ground for illegal scams.

According to Pastor Herrera, County Consumer Affairs Director, seven common consumer rip-off groups operate today.

By recognizing their pitches, hooks and routines, one might save thousands of dollars and countless headaches. If victimized by any of the scams listed below, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (213) 974-1452.

TELEMARKETING FRAUD

You receive a "legitimate" sounding call where the caller says you're a prize winner. Or they want you to buy gold, precious metals or other investments. Don't be fooled. The investments and the free prizes may be worthless.

CREDIT REPAIR

The advertisement states that bad credit or bankruptcies can be cleared off your record. You pay hundreds of dollars and get promises of a clear credit rating. Not quite.

Credit repair agencies can't do anything that you can't easily do

yourself. Call the department for a free brochure on how to clear your own credit.

INSTANT CREDIT

The advertisement guarantees credit cards to anyone, regardless of past credit history or current employment. Just drop a \$25 or \$50 check with your application in the mail. But the ad doesn't say that you'll need \$1,000 in a bank account to get a \$500 line of credit. You could make this arrangement for free with a bank.

CARPET CLEANING

Beware of bait and switch ads, such as "professional" carpet cleaning of any three rooms regardless of size for \$29.95. When the cleaners arrive, they say the price doesn't include cleaning solution, spot removal and furniture moving. Suddenly, the cost is 10 times more expensive.

FREE VACATIONS

Stay away from free vacations luring you to sales presentations for condos, time shares, etc. Consumers complain about lousy accommodations and that they could have gotten a better trip on their own for less money.

ADVANCE FEE LOAN COMPANIES

The advertisement guarantees loans for business or personal use, as long as you send a processing fee or the first month's payment. Watch out. You'll never get the loan or your processing fee refunded. Legitimate lenders do not charge in advance for loans.

WORK AT HOME SCHEMES

The advertisement promises setting you up in a business to make a product at home. Once you buy the materials and complete the job, the company refuses to purchase the products, goes out of business or leaves town. Another scheme involves "envelope stuffing" advertisements that lead you to believe that for a fee you'll be paid for sealing letters in envelopes. But all you receive is a worthless packet of information telling you to do the same thing they are doing — running ads for envelope stuffing and taking other people's money.

Those Lazy Days of Summer and Child Care

As June approaches, many of us look forward to long daylight hours, warm evenings, maybe even a vacation. For employees with school age children on the traditional school calendar, summer may signal a need to change child care arrangements. A number of options are available to County employees including discounted child care with three major vendors serving Southern California. Information on Children's World Learning Centers, La Petite Academy, and Kindercare programs have been distributed to Personnel Officers — give them a call to see if there is a program near you.

If you are thinking of enrolling

your preschool age child(ren) in child care, you may want to investigate the on-and near-site child care centers that have been developed at six locations for County employees. Information on these programs can also be obtained from your Personnel Office. These centers are licensed to serve children from six weeks to six years of age. While each of these programs is unique, all offer high quality care at rates that compare favorably with other center-based programs. Because each of these programs is running at or near capacity, it may be helpful to visit and register with the program of your choice well before the care is actually needed.

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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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