

County DIGEST



SEPTEMBER 1997

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COUNTY RESIDENTS

Established in 1881 as the Los Angeles County Horticultural Commissioner, the Department of Agricultural Commissioner was merged with Weights and Measures in 1985 and is currently one of the most diversified departments in the County. The department protects the health and safety of the County's residents and improves the quality of the environment through the enforcement of federal, state and local laws and regulations.

The variety of services provided by the department is unparalleled in other counties throughout the state. The department's major programs and associated activities include fire prevention, pest management, certifying weighing and measuring standards, regulating the use of pesticides, the shipping of plant and plant products in and out of California and the detection and eradication of exotic pests like the Mediterranean Fruit Fly. The Commissioner/Director, also known as the department head, is on the frontline in preparing the County for the inevitable arrival of the killer bee.

The department's programs are focused in the areas of consumer and environmental protection, providing leadership in and direction to the successful eradication of serious pests, protecting the consumer from increased food prices, the environment from increased pesticide application and the agricultural industry from increased costs of pest control.

The Consumer and Plant Protection Bureau assures consumers that the sale of goods, services and commodities are accurately measured and comply with labeling and sale requirements. The accuracy of price signs, scanners, commercial meters, gasoline dispensers and scales are checked on a regular basis. These efforts affirm that the

the detection of exotic pests that threaten the state's agricultural food and fiber crop production. The bureau also compiles crop statistics and provides training to the public and emergency responders involved with Africanized Honey (Killer) Bees.

In January 1994, the California Legislature passed the Structural Fumigation Enforcement Program. This pilot program, first initiated in Los Angeles County and sponsored by the Pest Control Operators of California, Inc., assesses a \$5 fee per structural fumigation to support enforcement. The program has been successful in its mission in that it has now expanded to include Orange and San Diego Counties.

The department also maintains the County's most complete and accredited laboratory — the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory. Established in 1973, the full-service facility offers a wide range of services to environmental engineers, governmental agencies, the agricultural industry and the public. Services

offered include environmental testing, sample collection and analytical testing. The laboratory is recognized statewide as a leading agency in environmental pollution testing.

The Weed Abatement program provides for the removal of weeds, brush and debris from vacant properties which help to prevent fires and reduce fire



A PHOTO CIRCA 1919 SHOWS A COUNTY TRUCK LOADED WITH POISONED GRAIN FOR TRANSPORTATION TO ANTELOPE VALLEY. ON THE FOREGROUND ARE MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S STAFF.

residents of Los Angeles County receive maximum value for their dollar because the price and quantity of products sold are accurately stated. Fresh fruits, vegetables and eggs are inspected for their wholesomeness, ripeness and quality. Furthermore, imported produce, flowers and plants are inspected to exclude new insects and plant diseases.

The Environmental Protection Bureau is responsible for the enforcement of state pesticide laws and regulations and

SEE "AGRI," PAGE THREE

DISCOVER THE MANY FACETS OF LA COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

It is only seven miles west of the civic center but it is the richest deposit of terrestrial Ice Age fossils in the world. It is a unique window into life during the Ice Age in Los Angeles, 4,000 to 40,000 years ago. Over three million plant and animal fossils have been found there. This is the County's Jurassic Park — the **George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries**.

The George C. Page Museum is a research and educational facility located in the heart of Hancock Park. The Museum sits on the Rancho La Brea Tar Pits, one of the world's most famous fossil locales, and is recognized for having an unusually diverse assemblage of extinct Ice Age plants and animals.

Visitors to the Museum will learn about life in Los Angeles during the last Ice Age when saber-toothed cats and mammoths roamed the L.A. Basin.

The Museum's exhibits are designed with children in mind. They can test their strength against the pull of asphalt or touch a massive leg bone of an extinct giant ground sloth.

Visitors can also view the cleaning and repairing of excavated bones through windows at the Fossil Preparation Laboratory.

The Museum exhibits fossils from the Rancho La Brea asphalt (tar) deposits. Ongoing excavations yield fossils in need of preparation and curation which bring about continuous research about the Ice Age era in the Los Angeles Basin.

Excavated prehistoric remains range in size from microscopic single-celled plants to enormous bones of the largest types of elephants that once inhabited North America. The only recovered human specimen from the deposits are the remains of a woman who lived in Los Angeles about 9,000 years ago.

Come and visit the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries and experience the diversity of life during the Ice Age in Southern California.

The Museum, located at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission fees are \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for students with ID and seniors 62 and above, \$2 for children five through 10. Children under five are admitted free.

For more information, call the George C. Page Museum at (213) 857-6311.

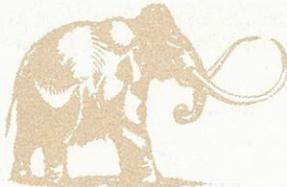
One more fascinating feature found in the County is nestled in the natural landscape of the Hollywood Hills, across

the Cahuenga Pass from Hollywood Bowl.

The **John Anson Ford Amphitheater**, located in a County regional park, is one of the most unusual performance venues in Los Angeles.

With only 1,200 seats (none more than 96 feet from the stage), the theater is intimate compared to other outdoor performance settings. The theater, enhanced by the hallmark crenellated towers that flank its stage, creates a romantic aura.

The 1997 Ford season encompasses 28 evening performances and 8 one-hour presentations for families including world culture; dance; jazz; blues and bluegrass and classical music.



The theater, located at 2580 Cahuenga Boulevard East, can accommodate patrons in wheelchairs and hearing assist headphones are available upon request. A variety of food and beverages are available in the outdoor cafe on the upper level and in the bar on the lower level of the amphitheater and can be consumed on the many picnic areas on the Ford grounds.

On site, stacked parking costs \$5 per vehicle for evening performances and \$3 per vehicle for one-hour family shows. For evening shows only, free, non-stacked parking is available in the Hanna-Barbera lot located 1.8 miles north of the theater. A shuttle costing \$1 per person runs between the lot and the theater.

For ticket, performance schedule and other pertinent information, call (213) 256-7828.

SEPTEMBER RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Brenda M. Knight

FIRE: William R. Crow, Dale H. Haney, Donald Rohrer

HEALTH SERVICES: Cleota I. Davis, Glenda M. Jones, Beverly C. Lee, Joseph W. Tyler, George W. Whitfield, Irma Willis, Bob E. Landsberg

INTERNAL SERVICES: John F. Avelar, Eula M. Henderson, Richard J. Huttenga

MENTAL HEALTH: Kathleen H. Snook

PROBATION: Richard A. Simonetti

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Lela M. Clay

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Stanley B. Feldman, Cecilia T. Gonzales, Excell Hampton, Mildred Johnson, Barbara Kabaka, Maria H. Valenzuela

PUBLIC WORKS: Robert Davis

SHERIFF: Louis A. Dunbar, Terry H. Glisson, Edward R. Hoover, Charles R. Redman, Jerry E. Schimming, William L. Snyder, Robert G. Welch, Carol L. Willis, Edward W. Young, Orangie L. Harrington, Virginia W. Kienzle, Teddy J. Fleming

SUPERIOR COURTS: Lee B. Ragins

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

ASSESSOR: Anthony D. Becker

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Patricia B. Klewer, Barbara M. Madden

FIRE: Ralph S. Campbell, Victor M. Ramirez, Robert M. Yabu, Richard C. Pecjak, Larry Rohrer, Robert E. Kinsey, Lincoln L. Ragle,

HEALTH SERVICES: Donna H. Cho, Arthur Elson, Alicia Escobedo, James J. Greenlaw, Ana L. Lopez, Ada Mosley, Toshiko B. Reschke, Ester M. Reynolds, Filomeno A. Sapinoso, Ruth Silos, Eunice Torrence, Jo A. Wright

INTERNAL SERVICES: Edward J. Vaughn

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Kathryn G. Fletcher, Jane Patterson

PROBATION: Tonja M. Acker, Flora D. Jones

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Dennis Davis, Maria Mallo, Delia Murillo, Linda B. Raabe, Corinne E. Rutledge, Nelia Torres

PUBLIC WORKS: Nancy M. Smith

SHERIFF: Norida L. Nelson, Dale A. Ruis, Margaret M. Price

SUPERIOR COURTS: Violet E. Fields, Maher Selim, Lillian E. Thomson

JACK HERRMANN

A TRUE CRAFTSMAN AND A CREATIVE GENIUS

When asked how many times he has been to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Jack Herrmann said, "two times." On both occasions, Herrmann received accolades. Earlier this year, he was selected as the Department of Public Works' 1997 Employee of the Year. This time, he was honored by the County Board of Supervisors as the **August 1997 County Employee of the Month**. And his reaction upon learning of his selection as the August honoree was a resounding, "wow."

Herrmann, who has been a County employee for nine years, is a Welder in the Palmdale Shop of the Fleet Management Group with the Department of Public Works. His ingenuity and skill in the use of welding equipment has literally changed the way the department conducts business in some areas by the unique tools, attachments and apparatus he has designed and built, primarily without blueprints. He has consistently applied his knowledge of metallurgy, material strength and fabrication, together with his 37 years of experience, to creating tools that have provided better service, improved safety and saved the department thousands of dollars.

Herrmann designed and built an attachment for sand spreaders that will apply a metered backfill of sand at the edge of the pavement along the Rio Hondo River Bikeway. The device, which costs \$750, is expected to save the department at least \$8,000 and replaces the previous labor intensive practice of applying sand by hand.

Another cost-effective equipment Herrmann designed was a grader attachment used to construct inverted

asphalt berms to a precise size. Construction of asphalt berms is necessary in the upper desert area to keep the 1,200 miles of roadway from being washed out during winter storms. Without this tool, the berms would have to be built by hand. The department estimates the labor and material savings to be \$5,000 per mile, with a \$12,000 savings in cost of asphalt that would be lost if the berms were constructed by hand. Over the past three years, savings

a bag to be filled with sand in seconds rather than in minutes. During an emergency situation, when time is of the essence, bags can be provided almost instantaneously for channeling storm water, raging surf and floods. This device has the potential for untold savings in preventing property damage and human suffering.

When away from work, Herrmann can be found at his call sign KD6MRF on ham radio. A licensed ham radio operator for three years, he continues to assist in the development of the American Radio Emergency Services (ARES). The organization, being formed in the Department of Public Works, will augment public service response during disasters by backing up public service radio. ARES looks to utilize Herrmann's considerable experience in this vital effort.

Herrmann graduated from the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology in Troy, Ohio in 1966, receiving his American Welding Society Certified Welder certificate. Several years later, he moved to California. He and his wife live in Palmdale and have been married for 20 years. They enjoy camping, cycling and ocean fishing.

"Seeing the finished product at work gives me great satisfaction," Herrmann said. His co-workers, the County and those affected by his ingenuity also agree that his inventions have made a dent in time and resources.

In recognition of these innovative and cost-saving designs, the County Board of Supervisors join the County family in congratulating Jack Herrmann as the August 1997 County Employee of the Month.



THE HONOREE ACCEPTING HIS SCROLL OF COMMENDATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

have totaled \$75,000, with a potential for additional significant savings in future years. With the use of only a torch and a hydraulic press, Herrmann designed a tool that has saved the department an enormous amount of money.

Yet another of Herrmann's design is an automatic sand bag filler which allows

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hazards. The bureau works cooperatively with the fire department to protect life and property. Services are provided in the unincorporated areas of

the County and contract cities. The Pest Management program, on the other hand, performs a variety of pest control services for homeowners, government agencies, school districts and private enterprises. Both programs are under the auspices of the Weed Hazard and Pest Abatement Bureau.

The Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures has undergone many changes in recent years. As the next millennium approaches, the department's staff welcomes the opportunity to continue to meet the County's growing needs and serve its citizens.

NEWS FLASH

ELECTIONS FOR LACERA'S BOARDS

General Members and Safety Members of LACERA are encouraged to vote in the upcoming LACERA election. This year's election for the Third Members of the Board of Investments and the Board of Retirement, the General Member seats of LACERA, will be held on **October 15**. Concurrently, there will be a special Safety Member election to fill the vacant

offices of the Fourth Member of the Board of Investments and the Seventh Member of the Board of Retirement with the terms of these offices expiring December 31, 1998.

Using the employee's address on the Auditor-Controller's master file, ballots will be mailed via U.S. Mail on Friday, September 19. If you do not receive an original ballot, you may request a

duplicate ballot through your departmental election coordinator before Friday, October 3. Ballots must be received by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk before 5:00 p.m., October 15. The election results will be certified by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on the fourth of November.

For more information, contact your departmental election coordinator.

YOU'LL FEEL GOOD AT THE FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The office of Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Department of Parks and Recreation will present the seventh annual **Johnny Otis Family Music Festival** on Saturday, October 11, 1997.

This year's event will feature the legendary rock-and-roll superstar James Brown. He will be joined on-stage by Don Julian and The Larks, The Penguins, The Drifters, Johnny Otis and His Band and more. This will be James Brown's only Southern California appearance during 1997.

The event, taking place at the Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will offer a unique day of music,

food and fun for the entire family. Activities include food tasting, vendor and craft booths and a classic car exhibit. A comedian will be on hand to keep everyone in stitches throughout the day. A children's stage featuring continuous entertainment including a magician and a children's play area with numerous kiddie rides have been designated for the enjoyment of the youngsters.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate and \$25 for reserved seats and may be purchased either through



THE LEGENDARY JAMES BROWN WILL HEADLINE THE JOHNNY OTIS FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Ticketmaster or by calling the park directly at (909) 599-8411. This number is also for general information. Admission is free for children under 12 years of age.

The proceeds from the event will benefit the Junior Lifeguard Program for Youth under the auspices of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park is located in San Dimas next to Raging Waters where the 10, 210 and 57 Freeways meet.



Members of the Board

Zev Yaroslavsky
Chairman
Third District

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

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Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

John S. Mina
Staff

**SEND US...
YOUR COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS OR QUESTIONS!**

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COUNTY DIGEST

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