

County DIGEST



JUNE 1998

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Supervisor Antonovich Weds

County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich married Christine Hu Hui Ling Sunday, February 15, 1998, at a standing-room only ceremony attended by more than 1,200 guests.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church in Glendale. The wedding drew coverage from American, Chinese and Armenian media.

Officiating was Pastor John Rieck of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Glendale. He was joined by Sister St. George (Antonovich's aunt) of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet; Monsignor Felix Diomartich and Father John Segaric of St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church; His Grace Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Western Prelacy; and Father Razmig Khatchadourian, Parish Priest at St. Mary's.

Congratulatory letters were received from Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, and His Holiness Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia.

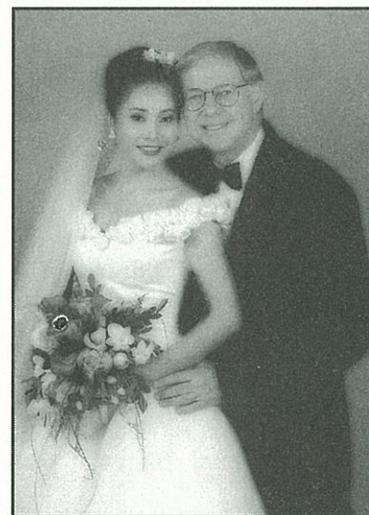
Red Buttons read from the Hebrew Bible and Pat Boone read from the New Testament.

Michael Reagan gave a toast on behalf of his father, Ronald Reagan, and his family.

Gregory Antonovich and Joe Crail served as Best Men, and Quennie Hu was Maiden of Honor. Tevan Aroustamian; Dr. William Burke, husband of Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Martin Vjatkovic; Superior Court Judge Michael Farrell; Greg Kahwajian; Tom Kirkeby; Bill Korek; Federal Judge Ron Lew; Jim Olson; Louis Del Rosario; Wesley Ru; Dr. Wasfy Shindy; John Vidovich; and Dick Wirth served as ushers.

Tina Chung, Jennifer Ho, Shine Huang, Lily Jiang, Francine Antonovich Pangborn, Mandi Antonovich Pangborn, Michelle Antonovich Pangborn, Han Hua Qi, Ariel Wang, Ann Yeh and Chi Xijing were bridesmaids. Erik Anderson was Ring Bearer and Kristan Quan was the Flower Girl. The ceremony was attended by Consulate officials from the Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of China.

Christine was born in Dalian, Liaoning, China; educated in China; and also lived in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Rowland Heights.



National Safety Month

Safety and health are an attitude. To emphasize the protection of people, property and the environment, the National Safety Council, an educational non-profit organization, has designated **June 1998** as **National Safety Month**.

The National Safety Council has selected June because statistically more Americans are killed in the three month time frame that includes June, July and August than any other quarter during the year.

Simple measures such as child safety seats, hard hats and safety and health regulations already make a significant impact in preventing accidents and injuries. However, measures like these alone do not sustain safety and health awareness.

Safety and health should not end in the workplace or at home but should be a way of life 24 hours a day, seven days a week on a year round basis.

The success of safety and health is actually based on what does not happen and

that is when no one gets hurt.

Help kick off a safe year by promoting safety and health awareness as a lifestyle. Try practicing these simple precautionary measures.

At work: Keep work areas clean and clear of clutter. Use proper lifting techniques. Pay attention to chemical label warnings. Use ladders safely.

At home: Update first aid kits and skills. Plan for emergencies. Check smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and evacuation plans.

While commuting: Drive defensively. Use seat belts. Use caution when crossing the street. Follow bicycle and motorcycle safety rules.

During leisure: Use sun protection. Be cautious about sports. Wear a life jacket when on a boating expedition.

These measures are not fool proof. But if they are taken seriously, accidents can be prevented. Know your risks and stay on the safe and healthy side. Make safety and health a way of life.

June 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:

CORONER: Edward Weissburd

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Patricia A. Atkins

FIRE: Larry L. Carroll, Gary B. Davis, Osmant K. Pyle, Jr., Thomas L. Stevenson

HEALTH SERVICES: Reyes M. Cordova, Sara M. Givins, Clyde Hawkins, Carlton J. Swanson

PUBLIC WORKS: John F. Ciranna, Daniel Robledo

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Dolores M. Arriola

SHERIFF: William W. Stocz, John D. Flood

SCAQM: Mildred Y. Brown

SUPERIOR COURTS: Patricia Cogan, Emanuel J. Sanzo

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

ASSESSOR: Norman J. Greitzer

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Gladys Amaro-Brito, Maria D. Taira

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Chere E. Bozanich

FIRE: Charles E. Blevins

HEALTH SERVICES: Della Apodaca, Harlene Breaux, Fouad F. Elhadidy, Warren P. Harwood, Cheryl A. McGregor, Dorothy J. Moore, Pergentina Mumar, Alejandrin M. Perez, Earl G. Thorn, John Rowlands, Jr.

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Sandra Stephens

OFFICE OF EDUCATION: Evelyn Scott

PARKS & RECREATION: Manuel Garcia, Frank Patterson

PROBATION: James L. Kelly

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gloria I. Rivera, John F. Soto, Juliet Hanzy

SHERIFF: John H. Williams, Walter Price, Roderick L. Haney

SUPERIOR COURTS: Sandra L. Anderson

Meet...Mark J. Saladino

the new Treasurer & Tax Collector



He moved two floors down to assume the role of Treasurer and Tax Collector. To him, it was an "unusual" selection because historically department heads were chosen from long-time employees.

In early April, the Board of Supervisors named Mark J. Saladino, an eight-year County employee, as Treasurer and Tax Collector. Prior to this, Saladino was a Principal Deputy County Counsel who specialized in the areas of finance and investment. During his stint as the County's chief finance attorney, he also handled finance and investment matters for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and numerous other subordinate local agencies, authorities and non-profit corporations.

The Illinois native earned a B.S. in Finance with high honors from the University of Illinois and a J.D. from New York University. He was admitted to practice law and is a member of the bar in New York, California and the District of Columbia.

While in New York, Saladino was affiliated with Hawkins, Delafield & Wood. He moved to Los Angeles in 1985 and practiced law with Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. In both firms, he specialized in banking, corporate and public finance, real estate and tax law. When asked to compare the east and west coast cities, Saladino said "New York is big and exciting while Los Angeles is comfortable."

Even though he is busier and works longer hours, the new department head enjoys the opportunity of serving the County and its citizens as the chief financier. Upon assuming the office, he reminded himself of the Orange County bankruptcy situation.

"The Treasurer and Tax Collector must be aware of the legal, financial and investment environments," Saladino said. "The County has more than \$9 billion in investments and the integrity of the investment pool must be protected."

Saladino's goals are directed to better serving the County's more than nine million citizens. He plans on making unpleasant functions consumer friendly; such as, making payments via the Internet and having persons answer phone inquiries

rather than recorded messages. He would like to see a continued working relationship between his office and the Offices of Assessor and Auditor-Controller.

"The overall ramifications have to be considered prior to implementing any such goals," he said.

He thanked the Board for the trust and confidence and DeWitt Clinton for the opportunity of working in County Counsel.

His expertise in the field of finance and investment has brought him to various academic, political and professional arenas where he spoke on a given topic, aided in drafting legislation or testified on behalf of a finance association. These venues include the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, the California State Legislature and the United States Congress.

When away from work-related matters, Saladino enjoys the comfort of his Palm Springs desert retreat where he finds spending a couple of days "very invigorating." He collects old currency including notes from Imperial Russia which he values and those given to him by his deceased father.

"I am blessed with an outstanding staff of managers," Saladino said. To acquaint himself with his new staff and keep their morale high, he conducts and relishes "walks" through all areas of the Office of Treasurer and Tax Collector because "all are needed in producing valuable service."



Department of Animal Care & Control

Duty with Compassion

The voice on the phone sounded frantic: "Please send an officer quick. A pack of pit bulls is chasing children down the street." Within minutes, a Los Angeles County animal control officer was on the scene and rounded up the dogs.

"These kinds of calls are becoming increasingly common," said Frank R. Andrews, director of the County's Department of Animal Care and Control. "We are seeing a new and disturbing trend in our work -- more aggressive and dangerous dogs menacing the communities we serve."

The rise in the number of dog attacks and aggressive animal incidents has prompted the department to create a special dangerous dog suppression squad dubbed "ARFS" (Animal Round-up For Safety). Funding is part of the department's 1998-99 budget.

"We are getting a growing number of complaints about dog packs running at large, menacing children on their way to school and chasing residents back into their homes," Andrews said. "We want to help residents reclaim their neighborhoods so that they can walk out of their front doors without worrying about being suddenly attacked by large, aggressive dogs."



A member of the ARFS squad in action.

Animal control is among the least known, lowest profile of departments in the myriad of service agencies provided by County government. Mandated under California law since the mid-1930s, the department has become the largest animal services agency in the state. It now serves

more than 3.2 million residents in 46 cities and the unincorporated areas of the County.

The department's mission is to reinforce state and County laws regarding domestic animals including licensing, leash law compliance, animal cruelty and neglect investigations and community safety for pets and residents.

Animal control officers sharpen their animal handling skills by responding to calls involving horses, cattle, snakes, cougars, bears, opossums, raccoons, skunks and even exotic animals like monkeys and monitor lizards.

"Even though the old stigmas persist -- the image of a 'dog catcher' as an insensitive, ignorant lout -- the reality is that animal control officers are a lot more sophisticated and well-trained than most people realize," Andrews said. "That's reflected in our motto 'Duty With Compassion.'"

"Our officers have to be diplomats and sometimes act as a balance between the competing interests of individual pet ownership versus community safety and tranquility."

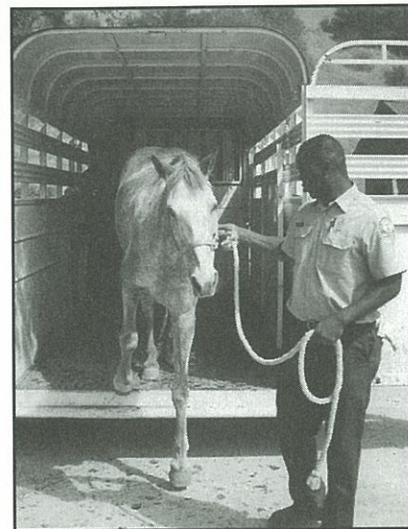
The department also is spearheading a trend toward more public-private partnerships to benefit animal welfare. Working with private, non-profit groups like the Animal Care Foundation, the Mercy Crusade, the Pet Savers Foundation among others, the department has received funding for innovative shelter pet adoption and low-cost spay and neutering campaigns.

"There are three crucial issues in animal control: rabies prevention, pet identification and pet population control," Andrews said.

"Pet licenses and ID tags save lives; it's just that simple. One reason that we make an intense licensing effort

is that we want to be able to return more stray dogs and cats to their owners. We see too many heart-broken families and children searching for lost pets in our animal shelters. The solution is simple: always make sure that your pet is wearing its license at all times."

"Since licensing is closely tied to rabies inoculation, that is an issue we are equally committed to. Dog bites are among the leading public health problems in the United States. People who are bitten by



An animal control officer participates in large animal handling training as part of the department's emergency preparedness plan.

dogs -- and especially the parents of children -- need to know that their suffering won't be compounded by the need to get expensive anti-rabies treatments too."

The department also plays a crucial role in pet population control. County animal shelters are among the leaders in performing low-cost spay and neuter surgery for dogs and cats. County shelter veterinarians have spayed and neutered more than 100,000 pets in this decade. The department's program is one of the largest and most successful of any public animal control agency in the country.

"There just aren't enough homes for all dogs and cats in America," Andrews noted. "Every year, millions of pets are euthanized. This is not a job that anyone in the department wants to do. Our focus is on prevention because that's a lot cheaper than the cost of the cure. If we can get pet owners to license and get rabies vaccinations for their animals in compliance with the law and spay and neuter their pets, then we can do our job in such a way that hardly anyone will notice it is being done."

Linda Graul

Making Changes to Improve Others' Lives



"Call Linda" is the most frequent comment heard when staff is unclear about case management delivery and Supplemental Rate Program (SRP) among others. That is why family and friends, co-workers and the Department of Mental Health's top brass gathered in the Board Hearing Room to join Supervisor Burke in honoring Linda Graul as the May Employee of the Month.

Graul, a 13-year County employee, is presently a Mental Health Education Consultant with the Specialized Community Programs where she supervises the Adult Services Case Management, Supplemental Rate and Interim Funding programs.

With a master's in Social Work from California State University, Fresno and a license as a Clinical Social Worker, Graul is an active member of the Association of Professional Social Workers.

Graul has played a key role in planning, supervising and implementing two major system changes in the department including Medi-Cal Consolidation. She was responsible for the implementation of case management linkage to ensure appropriate hospital utilization of beds and the smooth transition of acute mentally ill clients back to the community.

Another system change she continues to be responsible for is in the redirection of a portion of the SRP into what is called SRP Conversion Projects. Her wide range of experience with board and care homes and knowledge of case management services has helped provide essential planning and consultation with this project.

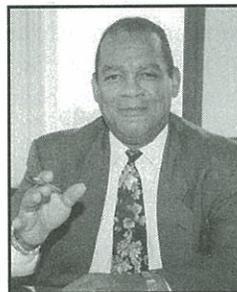
Graul has for many years been involved with CROP-WALK (Community Reach Out to People), a charitable event raising funds for world hunger.

Give the Gift of LIFE

Serious traffic accidents were on the rise as El Nino ravaged So. California. Ordinarily, caring for the injured would not have been a problem but through the fog and rain, a silent crisis was brewing.

Dr. Donald C. Thomas III, the Associate Director of the County's Department of Health Services, was advised that the County's Trauma Network was in trouble--not because of a shortage of finances or highly skilled physicians, but because one of the nation's largest trauma systems was nearly out of blood!

"This was clearly a time to take decisive action and demonstrate our ability to act quickly and responsibly to a life-threatening crisis," Thomas said. Therefore, under the authority of Health Services Director Mark Finucane, Thomas joined forces with the American Red Cross in an unprecedented appeal to the public and all County employees to donate blood and restore the supply needed to maintain the community's health and safety. County



Dr. Donald C. Thomas III

employee blood donor sites were set up and over 700 units of blood were donated. Sites were also set up at each of the region's ten trauma hospitals. The crisis was resolved. What about next time?

"Next time, we are going to be better prepared," said Finucane who together with County Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen and SEIU Local 660 President Alejandro Stephens have embarked on a Countywide strategy with the Red Cross to ensure the maintenance of an adequate and safe community blood supply. The new strategy includes the following initiatives:

- Mission Statement: To save lives through a vigorous and well-managed blood donor/bone marrow registry program administered through a close partnership between the County and the Red Cross.

- Objective: To maximize County employee involvement in Countywide blood donor/bone marrow registry programs.

- Goal: To attain a minimum blood donor/bone marrow registry participation rate of 10% for County employees by the year 2001.

•Strategy: To attain 10% employee participation rate through increased motivation derived from (1) more effective leadership; (2) coordination with County labor unions; (3) improved knowledge and awareness of the broad benefits of participation; and (4) corporate sponsorship of donor coordinator performance prizes and gala recognition ceremonies.



Janssen and Stephens join Buddy Blood Drop, the Red Cross mascot, as they announce the beginning of a joint labor-management initiative.

"Ensuring an adequate and safe community blood supply is one of our public trust responsibilities. I am fully committed to do all I can to support this endeavor," Janssen said.

Joining Janssen in this endeavor is the SEIU Local 660 President Alejandro Stephens who issued a challenge to all County employees to sign up soon and donate often. "LA County workers are the most valuable resource the County has and we intend to lead the way in this vital community effort by encouraging every County employee, union or not, to give the gift of life as often as they are able. This is a great example of labor and management working together on an issue of vital importance to us all. Everyone wins!"

Employees interested in participating in this program should contact their departmental coordinator or union representative.

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