



DIGEST

AUGUST 31, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Midnight Drama Employees Save Man's Life

Trapped in a torrent of water, Lou Rivera's life appeared doomed. Death was close at hand as he tumbled down the Pacoima flood control channel during a midnight thunderstorm.

But a dramatic rescue by three Department of Public Works employees saved the 46-year-old Pacoima resident. Rivera, who tried crossing the channel as a shortcut home after car failure, had tripped and lost balance.

"I was teaching the workers how to make an emergency rescue from the water when I saw something floating down the current," said Frank Cruz, a flood control construction supervisor. "It was midnight and raining so I really couldn't see very well. At first I thought it was a beach ball and then I realized it was a man bobbing up and down."

Quick action by Cruz and fellow Department of Public Works employees Joe Johnson and Mike Armendariz saved Rivera's life.

On that rainy, February night, Cruz was as-
(Continued on page 4)



(L. to R.) Mike Armendariz, Joe Johnson and Frank Cruz stand on the Pacoima Headworks' catwalk located over the flood control channel where they saved a man's life.

Electric Van Gets 1-Month County Test

Forget about oil changes and scratch the gas station off your list. And there's no need to worry about tune-ups, smog checks and mufflers. No, it's not the year 2000 but a 1990 reality called the "G-Van."

This summer, Southern California Edison loaned the all-electric van to the County for a one-month test period. Powered by 36, 6-volt batteries, the Internal Services Department put the standard-sized vehicle to work delivering mail to County facilities.

All in all, the van made an "impressive" showing, said Norbert "Woody" Woods, who heads up Mail and Delivery Service for the County.

"It's a little bit of a rough ride because of the weight of the batteries," he added. But "the best feature is its lack of producing pollution."

After a test ride, however, it's apparent that the van won't win any speed races; it takes 12 seconds to go from 0 to 30 mph and when you "floor it," there's a slight delay in acceleration. While it will go 55 miles per hour, Woods said he wouldn't want to enter freeway traffic. "It

(Continued on page 2)

Sheriff's Deputies Fight Crime With Pedal Power



Pedal Power: Deputies from the Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station take it to the streets with the all-terrain bicycle patrol.

For decades, slang such as "pounding the pavement" or "walking the beat" described law enforcement foot patrol programs. But the old phrases don't fit for a new breed of bicycle-riding deputy.

Over at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, a 16-deputy bicycle patrol unit started fighting crime in August with pedal power.

"The community just loves it," said Sgt. John Powell, a supervisor of the unit. "People come right up to us and tell us how approachable we are on bikes."

The patrol offers the physical presence of deputies walking a beat combined with the mobility of a patrol car, Powell noted, adding that the patrol runs two daily shifts, seven days a week.

But putting bicycles to work against crime is not new.

Last month, a Seattle police officer who has written a book on bike patrols, journeyed south to train the West Hollywood deputies.

(Continued on page 4)

Rideshare Week Keeps California Moving

Thousands of commuters have pledged to leave the driving to someone else October 3. Instead, they'll catch a bus, join a carpool, van-pool or ride a bike. Why the sudden change? Because it's Keep California Moving Day, a highlight of this year's California Rideshare Week, October 1 - 5.

The Board of Supervisors invites County employees to keep California moving by not driving solo. In addition, you're eligible to win a one-week vacation to Germany, one of two trips



to Hawaii, or a mini-vacation to a Westin Hotel in San Francisco or Costa Mesa.

To enter, simply fill out a pledge card. The card is fold and seal it with tape and mail it by September 28 to Commuter Transportation Services, Inc., 3550 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA. 90010-2404.

Pledge cards are available from your departmental rideshare coordinator; Commuter Computer, (213) 380-RIDE; or Kim Boatman of the CAO Trip Reduction Services Office, (213) 974-1771.



The G-Van's license plate.

Electric Van Makes 1-Month County Debut

(Continued from page 1)

doesn't have the same get-up-and-go as a gas-powered van," he added.

Still, the vehicle is a marked improvement over past electric vehicles and features low maintenance and excellent reliability, according to Edison officials. Instead of gassing it up, the van needs an electric charge after a day's work.

Built on a GMC chassis, these one-ton vans are the first "modern electric vans" made in the United States. Southern California Edison started loaning interested fleet operators the van early this year.

But will we see the van again? Without

question.

The Air Quality Management District calls for 40 percent of all vehicles on the road to run on clean fuel by 2010. In addition, the agency would like to see 100 percent vehicle electrification of passenger cars and buses before the middle of next century.

Backing up these goals are government organizations, auto manufacturers and electronic companies throughout the world who are currently striving to produce advanced electric power trains and batteries.

Without question, the electric vehicle is a much-needed reality for our environment.



Norbert "Woody" Woods, Head of Mail and Delivery Service, gives the G-Van a charge of electricity.

Congratulations Retirees

Warm wishes and congratulations go to the following employees who are retiring after 30 years or more of County service.

Children's Services: Gladys M. Lawton

Fire: Rudolf F. Collet, Morris N. Gregory

Health Services: Jantina Groenwold, Letha Isaac, Emery Robinson Jr., Maron E. Steger, John F. Williams

Internal Services: Franz W. Schmiedecke

Municipal Court: Stanley M. Seidler
Probation: Earl M. Davis Jr., Irene W. Smith

Public Social Services: Francene E. Smalls

Sheriff: Harold D. Johnston, Lee Roy Mealy

Best wishes are also extended to the following retirees with 25 years or more of County service:

Chief Administrative Office: Gladys T. Yonemoto

Children's Services: Lemuel Dominguez, John B. Higgins

Comm./Senior Citizens Services: Lorraine H. Morris

Fire: Lynn R. Harrison

Health Services: Warren Douglas Davidson, Lillie E. Hall, Eugene J. Le Beauf

Internal Services: Anderson Blue

Mental Health: Ronald Higginbotham, John N. McFee Jr.

Probation: Robert C. Grose, William C. Hartz

Public Defender: Anna R. Roberts

Public Social Services: Lana Bell, Elizabeth H. Ingham, Mitsuye Kocker, Darlene Moorman

Sheriff: Johnnie Nakasone, Freddie A. Wisinger

County Library Gets Computerized

A 13-month project involving staff and volunteers has transformed the County Public Health Library into the largest computerized library system in the world.

"We did it in an amazing amount of time," said Public Library Information Officer Sue Cowen about the \$4.5 million conversion to a bar code check-out system. "Never before has a system of this size been automated so quickly with no hardware or breakdown problems."

Under the new system, library patrons are the big winners. Having library cards on file and signing cards tucked into book sleeves is now extinct. Patrons now hand key cards to a clerk who uses a wand to read the card and the item's bar codes. In addition, customers can now use all 90 libraries within the 5-million book-collection system without having to register at each facility.



Supervisor Mike Antonovich and County Librarian Sandra Reuben get a demonstration of the new computerized library check-out system at Valencia Library.

"The whole project was designed to improve and enhance customer service," said Librarian Sandra Reuben. "We are in the business of satisfying the customer's need to know, and now we will be able to serve them more produc-

tively."

According to County records, 12.1 million items were checked out in 1988-89 and 14 million reference questions were asked.

PRINCETON GOES WEST

Program Brings East-Coast Students to County



(L. to R.) Josh Berman, Tim Gilbert and Pat Yun

Call it "Ivy League Goes West" or "Princeton Meets L.A." Sounds like a new movie? Not quite. It's just the outcome of a new program that brought five Princeton University students to the County this summer.

As winners of the Princeton University/Los Angeles Fellowship Awards, the students' arrival marked the start of an Affirmative Action Compliance Office program that brings Ivy League brain power to the County.

Robert Arias, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, started the program after attending a Minority Issues in the Workplace conference in Los Angeles. The program brought together top government, business and student leaders from throughout the country. Arias contacted conference director and Princeton

student Josh Berman and asked him to recruit top Princeton students for the program.

"I was extremely impressed with Josh and the conference program," Arias said. "The students' idealism and the executives' actual experience created interesting dynamics in the problem-solving sessions.

Students were attracted to the program due to its "hands-on" nature. Traditionally, students interested in public sector work spend summers as interns in Washington D.C., often filing papers and answering phones. But this program lets the winners unleash a wide range of skills.

Take Josh Berman for example. Working with the Department of Affirmative Action, he developed a government-student partnership program that encourages inner-city youth to stay in

school. Over at Treasurer and Tax Collector, Tim Gilbert and Pat Yun developed computer software packages.

And the Department of Beaches and Harbors put Brendan Johnson and I-fan Quirk to work on research projects, including analyzing the trends in beach parking during the past 10 years.

Under the program, students get a stipend, along with a transportation and housing allowance.

Departments committed to the program for next summer include Superior Court, Treasurer and Tax Collector, and Affirmative Action. If your department is interested in the program, call Dennis Tafoya, Senior Deputy Compliance Officer, at (213) 974-1384.

Savings Bonds Update

Starting October 1, \$50 and \$75 Savings Bonds will no longer be issued through payroll deduction. If you are buying these bonds, information will be sent to you in the mail. The next issue of the "Digest" will feature additional information.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS 

County Day At The Opera: A Final Reminder

TO OBTAIN TICKETS, PLEASE USE THIS FORM:

Yes! Please send me _____ tickets to Mozart's *Idomeneo* on Saturday, September 22, at 11:00, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion @ \$7.50 per person for a total of \$ _____.

Name County Department

Mailing Address

City Zip Code

Telephone (Day) Telephone (Evening)

____ Yes, I would like to attend the pre-performance talk at 10:15 am in the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Please detach and return with payment and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by September 7 to:

County Employee Preview
Los Angeles Music Center Opera
135 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Make checks payable to: LOS ANGELES MUSIC CENTER OPERA

ORDER DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7, 1990

When Los Angeles Music Center Opera presents "Idomeneo" for County employees on September 22, one of the performers gracing the stage will be L.A.'s own Jonathon Mack.

A resident of Long Beach and a graduate of USC, Mack has become one of Southern California's most popular tenors. He is equally comfortable in dramatic and comedy roles, having sung in L.A. Opera's production of "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny," "Orpheus in the Underworld," and "Katya Kabanova".



County employees are invited to see Mack perform as "Auerbach" in "Idomeneo" at a special preview performance on September 22, 11 a.m., at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The performance is accompanied by super-titles — English paraphrases of the text projected on a screen above the stage. Tickets are \$7.50 per person, a savings of up to 93 percent off the regular ticket price, and parking is free. Due to its three-hour length, the opera is not recommended for children under 10.

The deadline for ordering tickets is September 7. For more information, call County Special Programs, (213) 974-1768.

DPW Employees Rescue Drowning Man

(Continued from page 1)

signed to supervise the diversion of water from a flood control channel, a standard operation during the storm season.

When they spotted Rivera, he was heading for a gate in the channel. They tried a quick rescue but he was sucked under the gate. After 10 seconds, Rivera's head popped to the surface as he approached the three-foot wide underground pipes.

"I knew if he reached those pipes it would all be over," Cruz said.

Cruz and Armendariz sprinted after the man while Johnson rushed to the telephone to dial "911" and raise a gate to stop the water that carried Rivera to the pipes. Meanwhile, Cruz and Armendariz jumped over a five-foot fence to reach the victim and entered the water.

"We could have been flushed through those pipes," Armendariz said. "But you don't think about the danger, you just do it."

They caught Rivera just a few feet before

disappearing and pulled him to the edge of the channel.

The next day, Cruz dropped by Holy Cross Hospital. Although listed in "critical/poor" condition, Rivera still gave a smile and thanked the Public Works crew for saving his life. Today, Rivera is fully recovered.

Bicycles Used to Battle Crime

(Continued from page 1)

Paul Grady, who started Seattle's 28-officer bicycle program in 1987, said the pedal patrol, in some cases, is more suitable than engine power for patrolling urban areas plagued by gridlock. And the 1.9-square mile city of West Hollywood is a natural for the program.

"In a patrol car, you don't always know what's going on — you're more visible and more vulnerable," Grady said. "But on a bicycle you're more stealthy. You have the element of surprise."

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PETER F. SCHABARUM
Chairman
First District

KENNETH HAHN
Second District

EDMUND D. EDELMAN
Third District

DEANE DANA
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

RICHARD B. DIXON
Chief Administrative Officer

EVELYN GUTIERREZ
Editor - In - Chief

LAWRENCE WELSH
Managing Editor

Room 783, Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: 974-1770



CRIME ALERT



SUSPECTS SOUGHT

Los Angeles City Controller Rick Tuttle has been joined by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in sponsoring the Crime Alert Program. The Program is designed to help the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) find felony suspects thought to be in the Los Angeles area. A new Crime Alert Bulletin is distributed every two months.

If you have any information regarding these suspects, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PERSONALLY DETAIN OR ARREST THEM. Anyone with information should contact the Department indicated next to the suspect's picture.



Murder Suspect: ALVARO OSUNA SANDOVAL

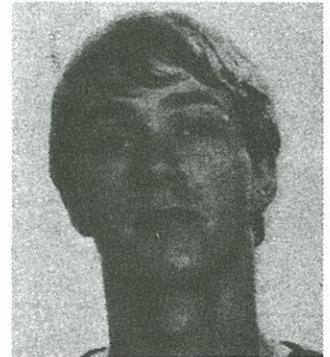
Alvaro Osuna Sandoval is wanted for murder. On June 9, 1990, he shot his brother-in-law to death during an argument. The murder occurred in the 14500 block of Blythe Street, in the Panorama City section of Los Angeles. The suspect is a male Hispanic, 27 years old, 5'7", 145 lbs., black hair, brown eyes. He may be driving a dark blue or black van.

Contact: Homicide Detail of Van Nuys Detective Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, (818) 989-8377. This investigation is filed under DR #90-0925476.

Murder Suspect: GERALD RAY REEVES, JR.

Gerald Ray Reeves, Jr. is wanted for murder. During the late evening hours of March 28, 1990, he accompanied the victim to his residence where he stabbed the victim to death during a robbery. The suspect is a male White, 20 years old, 6'0", 145 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, fair complexion.

Contact: Homicide Detail of Hollywood Detective Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, (213) 485-6410. This investigation is filed under DR #90-0636121.



Burglary Suspect: MICHAEL JOSEPH VASSALLO

Michael Joseph Vassallo has been a fugitive for fifteen years. He is wanted on burglary charges in Los Angeles County. He is originally from Boston, Massachusetts where he has relatives. The suspect is a male White, 38 years old, 5'8", 190 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. The suspect has a tattoo of a "Closed Fist" on his left arm.

Contact: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Fugitive-Warrant Detail, Deputy George Rose or Sergeant Paul Scauzillo at (213) 974-4411.



Murder-Escape Suspect: VICTOR MARTINEZ CASTELLANOS AKA: VICTOR RAMIREZ RODRIGUEZ

Victor Martinez Castellanos escaped from Los Angeles County Jail on March 22, 1990. He was serving a term for murder. He has gang affiliations in South Los Angeles and relatives in Mexico. HE IS CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Contact: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff's Escape Detail, Deputy William Chaney, (213) 974-4411. This investigation is filed under #090-01197-5120-323.

