



NEW SIGN . . . Supervisors for the Southern California Gas Co.'s customer service base in Hawthorne are wearing bright yellow flags on their ties as a safety reminder these days. Displaying the flags are, from left, Superintendent Howard Johnson, Irv Kohler, Chuck Killen, Carl Pulliam, and Don Hingley. Pulliam accepts his tie from Johnson. The mobile sign above the men emphasizes safety program at the base.



LA CROIX WINNERS . . . R. Parker Sullivan, president of the General Telephone Co. of California, left, congratulates employees honored for courage and quick thinking in emergency circumstances. Recipients of the awards are, from left, Raymond E. Sydenstricker, Redondo Beach field engineer; Bill E. McNear, plant methods administrator at the General offices; Newell O. Sharp, Ontario equipment man; and Harold W. Capron, Westminster service center foreman.

### Assessor Asks Outside Legal Aid in Two Suits

County Assessor Phil Watson has asked the Board of Supervisors to hire outside attorneys to represent the county in two law suits challenging assessments on oil leases. Watson said he had been informed by County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy that there was no legal bar to the hiring of outside counsel and that Kennedy agreed with the request.

"Our own County Counsel staff is highly competent," Watson said "but is already overloaded with work. Since the cases are highly technical and involve millions of dollars in present and future assessments, I feel the County should be represented by the most experienced counsel available in the field of mineral rights law."

TH TWO suits involve 1963 assessments on the Long Beach Oil Development Co. and Atlantic Co. LBOD is requesting an assessment reduction from \$11,877,100 to zero or to a maximum of \$1,153,000. Atlantic wants its \$22,185,030 assessment cut to \$16,747,280.

On the 1964 assessment roll, the assessed value on leases of this kind was \$62,000,000. If the courts rule against the assessor, there would be a loss of \$36,000,000 in assessments, resulting in tax loss of between \$2 1/2 and \$3 million.

WATSON ALSO pointed to the effect an adverse decision could have on future assessments. On the East Wilmington field alone, which will be completely assessable on the 1966 assessment roll, it is estimated that the total tax revenue to be generated during the course of the contracts could mount as high as \$208,000,000.

The assessor said these decisions could also have far-reaching state and national effects.

"These decisions are crucial," Watson said. "With so much riding on the outcome I think the county would be penny wise and pound foolish if it does not engage the best available counsel in this highly technical field."

### Torrance Man Cited For Course

Joe L. Miramontes of 24457 Hawthorne Ave., has earned a certificate of proficiency from the California Water Pollution Control Association.

Miramontes, 35, was one of five employees of the City of Los Angeles to be honored by the water Pollution Control Association. He is a plant operator at the Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant in Playa del Rey.

The certificate was awarded for completion of a series of examinations and instructional courses conducted by the association.

The certificates will be presented during the 37th annual conference of the statewide organization April 28 through May 1 in San Diego.

THE FOUR were Fred Deitz, Merritt College, Oakland; Fred Smutz, New York City Community College; Robert Sherman, Roger Williams Junior College, Providence, Rhode Island, and Mooney, who represented El Camino College.

"During this meeting, the council listened to the problems of the two-year colleges and to suggestions of ways in which it could be of assistance to the colleges," Mooney said.

Discussions centered about such topics as science major curriculum, peripheral chemistry curriculum, entering student capabilities, library and other resources, research for faculty and students, and facilities, equipment and technical assistants.

Mooney reports that the advisory council demonstrated its interest in chemistry education by inviting four two-year college chemistry instructors to its recent meeting in Washington, D.C.

### Educator To Serve On Council

William T. Mooney Jr., assistant director of instruction at El Camino College, will serve on the Advisory Council on College Chemistry of the National Science Foundation.

Following his appointment, Mooney was invited to address the fifth annual Junior College Chemistry Roundtable Conference conducted in Dearborn, Mich. The college administrator described the advisory council's interest in chemistry education in two-year colleges.

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### Deadline Nears for Vet Claims

County Assessor Phil Watson has warned that the deadline for filing for veteran exemptions is just a few weeks away.

All claims for the \$1,000 veteran exemption must be filed no later than 5 p.m. May 3.

Watson said that claims were coming in at a slower rate than this time last year. He urged veterans to file promptly to avoid a last-minute rush at the deadline.

Watson said the cases are not identical, but both hinge on the question of whether royalties paid by the lessee to the government agency lessor should be deducted in computing the value of the mineral right.

Specimens of three of Africa's most interesting animals — zebra, wildebeest, and gazelle — to be on display at the County Museum in Exposition Park.

The setting authentically reproduced for the exhibit is a water hole on the Serengeti Plains in northern Tanganyika. More than 60 other displays are open to the public in the Hall of Exotic Mammals.

The museum is open to the public without charge daily except Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## NEWSPAPERS: Guardians of Freedom Safeguard for Our Form of Government



Said Dwight D. Eisenhower: Only when there is a strong free press, with an unflinching sense of responsibility, can truth flourish and man grow to his maximum capability.

This newspaper and American newsmen all over the world are dedicated to presenting, so nearly as is humanly possible, the unclouded face of truth in its news columns. Guarding your freedom and your right to know is our everyday job.

# Press-Herald

SINCE 1914