

County Lifeguards Rate Special Bravo for Work

By BURTON W. CHACE
Summertime is a time of leisure hours and outdoor enjoyment for most people. But for the men of the County Lifeguard Service, things are different. Summer is to the beach lifeguards what the Christmas shopping season is to a department store salesperson— hectic.

There are 44 permanent lifeguards and a host of temporary beach guards who are called into service when the demand presents itself. These men patrol the Los Angeles County shoreline at Malibu and Zuma beaches and from El Segundo to the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

IN ADDITION, they serve bathers and boaters at the Marina del Rey, the county-operated small craft harbor. And they serve well. In the past five years, only five persons have drowned in waters protected by these fine men. A few of these drownings were, in fact, due to physical problems not normally encountered, including a heart attack and an epileptic seizure, but they are counted as drownings since the death occurred in the water.

When you consider that more than 100 million persons have visited beaches protected by these guards during that five-year period, you can measure the full effect of that low death toll.

DURING this time, the lifeguards have performed more than 25,000 rescues, answered more than 26,000 requests for aid, helped 2,000 boats in distress, and returned more than 8,000 lost children.

These figures reflect a lot of work in a lot of different ways, and the success can be measured by the many gestures of appreciation which come from the communities served as well as the hard figures.

The County Lifeguard Service has been proposed.

CITIES with their own service include Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Santa Monica.

A study of such a consoli-

ation is being performed by the County Chief Administrative Officer, and the results will be forthcoming in about three months.

Meanwhile, I have made a preliminary survey among the cities—all of which are in my district since a representative citizens along the entire 67-mile county coastline—and you might be interested in the response.

NONE OF the cities has

indicated a desire to consolidate with the county service, even though they acknowledge it as a fine life-saving unit. They prefer to handle their own service, and I support their "home rule" position wholeheartedly.

Frankly, I believe that the county taxpayer is better off if those cities would choose to operate their own lifeguard services. And my reasoning is very basic.

Cities have many more ways of gathering revenues for their general budget, such as sales taxes, liquor taxes, etc. The county finances its budget almost entirely out of the property tax.

THEREFORE, if additional lifeguards and beach services had to be financed by the county, an additional burden would be placed on the property taxpayer.

Naturally I would vigorously oppose any move to consolidate the lifeguard services over the objection of the cities involved. The "home rule" principle is one of the people's most precious rights.

So while the eventual report on the consolidation proposal may show how a few positions could be eliminated, it would mean higher tax bills for the property taxpayer, and I am against

that, as my voting record consistently indicates.

There is a good chance that some forms of consolidation in operations procedures can be made to improve the efficiency and lower the costs of both city and county lifeguard services. This I would favor.

But anything which would raise the county tax bill or infringe on cities' rights to operate their own services I will vigorously oppose.

Retiring Jurist Honored By Board of Supervisors

County supervisors have paid tribute to retiring Judge Donald Armstrong of the South Bay Municipal Court.

On the motion of Burton W. Chace, the Board of Supervisors ordered preparation of a scroll honoring the jurist for outstanding service. The scroll will be presented at retirement ceremonies for Judge Armstrong, Chace said.

The South Bay Municipal Court is losing a fine

judge with the retirement of Donald Armstrong this Friday," Chace said. "He has served the district faithfully and honorably for 11 years."

Judge Armstrong was appointed to the bench in 1957 by then Governor Goodwin J. Knight. He has served as presiding judge for three of his eleven years on the bench.

Following his retirement, Judge Armstrong expects to resume private law practice

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Managers Find Body Of Tenant

The body of Jayne Collier, 49, of 20917 Amie Ave., Apt. 19, was discovered lying on the kitchen floor of the apartment Sunday afternoon.

Apartment managers Charles and Grace Johnson made the discovery about 2:30 p.m. after entering the apartment to measure windows for curtains.

Police said the unemployed woman had been dead for some time. Natural causes were tentatively listed.

Nearest relative of the victim is a sister, Mrs. Martha Amour of 20326 Madison Ave.

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