

COUNTY REPORT

New Beach Department Begins First Summer

By BURTON W. CHACE
County Supervisor

Most people look forward to the summertime for leisure hours and outdoor enjoyment.

That's not the case with the County Department of Beaches, which is beginning its first summer season as an independent department — not a division of the Parks and Recreation staff.

Almost all of the beach employees — lifeguards and maintenance personnel — transferred from Parks and Recreation Department, so there are very few new faces on the beaches. The difference is, they're on their own.

THERE ARE 44 permanent lifeguards and a host of temporary beach guards who are called into service when the demand presents itself. And during the summer, that demand presents itself often.

To the Department of Beaches, summer has the same meaning as the Christmas shopping season has to a department store salesman — the times will be hectic.

Under the supervision of Dick Fitzgerald, director of beaches, the guards 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, in conjunction with the Marina Harbor Patrol.

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 the 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 some 26,000 requests for first aid, helped 2,400 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.

But this season, the lifeguards and the Department of Beaches face their biggest challenge. With its independence as a county department, the beaches staff cannot "stand pat" on its past record

but must strive for new heights.

EVERY effort will be made every effort will be made to preserve the almost-flawless lifesaving record; the maintenance men have pledged themselves to even cleaner beaches; the management staff is determined to make better use of our beaches through various programs.

Garden Checklist

1. Plant fragrance in your garden. Here are a few shrubs with delightful fragrance: star jasmine, bouvardia, sweet olive, night blooming jasmine, gardenias, and meyer lemon.

2. Watering is of great importance during the summer months. The water should penetrate deeply — to the full extent of the root system.

3. Tuberous begonias and fuchsias are heavy feeders and should be fertilized frequently. Nurserymen can recommend how often, and the plant food to use.

4. Discourage crabgrass in lawns by applying special chemicals that are incorporated in lawn foods. Besides controlling crabgrass, the nutrition promotes a vigorous lawn, which is the best defense against this encroaching pest.

Law in Action

We make binding contracts so that we can plan our personal and business activities with some degree of certainty.

John Jones wasn't quite sure he wanted to buy Smith's 100-acre farm. In turn Smith wasn't sure he wanted to sell it. After talking it over, Jones paid Smith \$1,000 for a one year option to buy the farm. But in the option, which is a contract, Smith was to keep two acres along a road in front of the farm house.

Nearly a year later, Jones decided to buy, but Smith balked. He said that no court would enforce a vague contract. It did not set out clearly enough Smith's right to which two acres he could keep.

Jones sued to make Smith choose and carve out his two acres and to sell the rest. The court sided with Jones: Smith could pick any two acres he wanted along the road, but he could not stall. He had to sell.

Life being what it is, people sometimes have to make some contracts leaving some terms to the future. But avoid such contracts when you can. For "an agreement to make an agreement" is a shaky contract, indeed.

The parties can often remove some vagueness by setting forth the kind of things they had in mind when they left some of the terms open.

But contracts fail when they leave too much to be decided later. Thus one contract called for the sale of three acres of land, the seller to hold out two acres without any guide as to their location or shape. Neither party could agree on how to carve up the land. The court then threw up its hands, too. The contract was too vague to enforce.

Vagueness is bad in contracts as well as in deeds, wills, mortgages, and the like. Get your important agreement in writing and check them carefully before you sign. And in drafting them nail down in detail exactly who gets what in return for what. A lawyer skilled in legal precision can save many headaches.

New Signs To Control Parking

Parking restrictions near Dominguez Hills College will go into effect soon, according to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

"The new regulations, which will prohibit parking between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., except for Saturdays and Sundays, will discourage students parking on residential streets," Hahn said. "There is ample parking space for students on the college grounds."

The restrictions will be on Tamcliff avenue between Meadowbrook and Victoria streets and on parts of Sagebank street, Mackeson court and Lysander drive.

The restrictions will become effective as soon as signs are installed, Hahn added.

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3.5 OUNCE BOTTLE
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