

INQUIRY ORDERED INTO \$8 MILLION RECORDS SYSTEM

BY CHARLES DONALDSON

Times Staff Writer

An investigation was ordered by Los Angeles County supervisors Tuesday to determine whether a faulty video-file records system was installed in a \$19.5 million sheriff's microwave communications project.

Arthur G. Will, chief administrative officer, said he hoped to report in 30 days whether the system meets contract specifications—a decision which could lead to a court suit against the builder.

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Charles Donaldson. (Mar. 28, 1973). INQUIRY ORDERED INTO \$8 MILLION [ORACLE, AMPEX] RECORDS SYSTEM. The Los Angeles Times.

RECORDS SYSTEM

Continued from First Page
1971. The county paid rentals totaling \$628,000, but halted them in December of that year in a dispute over performance of the equipment.

The program involves use of a computer to retrieve information stored on videotape. As the county envisioned it, an employe in an outlying sheriff station would be able to have requested records sought out by the computer and televised in a matter of moments.

County officials say the system works, but the question is: does it meet the performance specifications spelled out in the contract?

"We have had a long series of technical discussions with Ampex and whether the product meets contract specifications. We are not sure and they are not sure we got what we contracted for. They are as concerned as we are," Will said.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn initiated the call for a review and report by Will in 30 days on the ORACLE situation, saying, "Maybe it is a giant boondoggle," and adding he had heard the county was going to court over the system's performance.

Will said, "A lawsuit is always possible when something does not meet contract specifications. But this is not a simple

amount of staff time has been invested seeking the piece of equipment and a rather considerable answer. We are in discussion with the company and I hope to have the talks completed within the 30-day period you set for the report."

Will said the video-file aspect of the program amounted to a total of \$8.1 million and said the remainder of the spending goes toward the sheriff's microwave communication and dispatch systems which will be used with or without ORACLE.

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Los Angeles
CC R PART II
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1973

ART SEIDENBAUM Oscar of the Mouth

This is the day after Oscar was promulgated, the season when the amusement academies are making their annual awards in stage, disc and publicity, when Emmy is a love object for the community that enjoys ego intercourse above all other relationships.

This is also the season when the Apartment Players, a modest legitimate outfit, present their Frederick Ruffel Award—sometimes known as the Mickey Mouth—to the public figure with the most original performance by a tongue in the previous 12 months.

The Ruffel honor is not limited to stage, screen or tube. Politicians, protest leaders and even professors are eligible as long as they say more than they mean—or do less than they promise.

Derek Hale, award committee chairman, announces that nominations for the April 1 ceremony are now closed. Good. Since we don't belong to the April fool academy, then the Apartment Players will do their own honors. But there's no harm in reviewing the rhetoric of 1972 for our own fun.

Ghost Subject
No Oscar or Emmy candidate could hope to surpass the performance of Clifford Irving, who managed to turn the living Howard Hughes into a false legend. Irving invented the category of ghost subject rather than ghost writer, in which the real man of a biography never really appears at all.

Sen. George McGovern deserves honorable mention for his pledge of 1,000% support, raising perfection to an impossible new power in presidential campaigns. When McGovern later withdrew his extravagant pledge, he only compounded his qualifications for the award.

Who can forget the immortal lines of the Watergate capers who claimed to be spying on the Democratic Party in order to prevent violence? They are continuing this rhetorical peep show into 1973.

Mark Spitz, the Olympic swimmer, merits consideration for taking a dive in a milk bath. He proved that you may have to crawl before you talk, but even then the results can be disappointing. No American hero has splashed so magnificently in the books and so poorly in the channels.

Hartke Award
Sen. Vance Hartke of Indiana gave a nomination to his brother for having refused to let his luggage be searched before boarding an airplane. He will honorably be left standing on principle while the rest of the world goes by.

My favorite local candidate continues to be Mayor Sam Yorty, for consistently managing to put his mouth where the rest of him isn't. In 1972, his wife redeemed him with Blue Chip stamps. Alas, his 1973 statement that "forces from the outside" are trying to take over L.A. is not eligible.

And we need a woman as a token tongue in the competition, for a year in which pig was so often the last word. Why not Brigitte Bardot who insists that while men are beasts, real beasts behave much better?

Good luck, Apartment Players, in a noble effort to give rhetoric the recognition it so richly deserves. There are still misguided mortals who think they've said a mouthful with the fulsome phrase.

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Mother's Vigil for Kidnaped Baby

BY LEE HARRIS
Times Staff Writer

At night, Mrs. Frances May Lauver can be heard crying herself to sleep in her room.

"Sometimes you go in and try and comfort her, other times you just go on by," said her mother.

Most of the time, Frances Lauver just waits. And does nothing.

"Then she remembers. She remembers the happiness the baby brought into the house."

She remembers that he liked ginger snaps, licorice, Ritz crackers and chocolate cookies.

She remembers that he enjoyed playing peekaboo and biting the cat.

Then the memories of horror push their way into her mind.

It had all begun routinely.

The day was Jan. 20—the day 11-month-old Tommy Michael Lauver Jr. took his first steps. That afternoon, Mrs. Lauver took her son with her to a shopping center near their Modesto home.

Sitting in the Granada Hills home of her mother the other day, Mrs. Lauver, 22, recalled what happened next:

The box boy placed the groceries in her 1937 station wagon. She put Tommy in his car seat on the front seat of the vehicle and started to fumble with the ignition keys.

"I love you," a voice said as her car door suddenly swung open.

"Act cool and nothing will happen," said a thin man with reddish brown hair. He reached a pocket knife into her side, making a superficial wound.

She moved over and the man drove out of the parking lot and into the country.

He asked for her driver's license, saying he wanted to know how to get in touch with her.

Artist's sketch of suspect.

Tommy Michael Lauver Jr. . . . his mother waits, remembers.

County Endorses Break for Veterans in Testing for Jobs

BY DON SMITH
Times Staff Writer

SANTA ANA—A program to give veterans preferential treatment in getting county jobs with the endorsement Tuesday of the Board of Supervisors.

By a 4-1 vote, board members asked County Administrative Officer Robert Thomas to come up with a system covering veterans and disabled veterans within the next 30 days.

The action came after supervisors have been told that the county is one of only three in California which does not have some kind of program which gives extra credit to veterans when testing for public jobs.

However, Personnel Department officials said such points would be of little value under the county's merit system which does not correspond to civil service programs in use elsewhere.

However, Personnel Director William Hart said the supervisors could, if they wished, add veterans to the list of groups receiving preferential hiring treatment under the Affirmative Action Program.

That, policy, he explained, thus far has been geared to improving the county's ratio of ethnic minorities and women. In addition, he noted, the county is making efforts to hire certain classes of ex-convicts and those in rehabilitation programs such as methadone maintenance for former heroin users.

"We have not been neglecting the veterans," Hart added. "Roughly half of those hired under the Public Employment Program (PEP) are veterans and, in addition, we have two special Vietnam era veterans programs in effect. Of the 678 persons hired under PEP and the two

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RESIDENTS FIGHT ADDRESS CHANGES

8½-Year-Old Error: 'Sorry, Wrong Numbers'

BY STEVE EMMONS
Times Staff Writer

LAGUNA HILLS — A few of Robert Greco's neighbors have knocked under, but Greco vows he will never change his house number.

Officials of the county's Building and Safety Department seem just as determined that Greco and his 13 neighbors make the change. The numbers assigned to the houses 8½ years ago, but they should be even.

"Houses on the south and east sides of streets get even numbers," said J. W. Wolfe, chief of the department's land use division.

"That's the way the system is from one end of the county to the other. This is a totally unacceptable situation."

Wolfe concludes that his department made the original mistake and assigned wrong numbers, but he said recent developments have made the change necessary.

Greco, who circulated a petition among his neighbors in Coteau Drive and has threatened the county with a lawsuit, said the change makes no sense and will cause nothing but inconvenience. "And I'm tired of government bureaucrats trying to shove things down my throat," he added.

The mistake came to light when new houses were built recently on Coteau Drive. The numbers on the new houses were the same as the numbers across the street.

Wolfe explained that the new houses were assigned the correct address numbers, the same numbers that 8½ years ago were wrongly assigned to the southside houses.

"No one seemed to notice the error until the developer went to utility companies to apply for service. Their files showed those addresses were already being served.

The developers complained to the county and soon residents in the older homes received letters from Wolfe.

The two-page letters explained how the mistake was made, cited the law giving the district its legal powers and ordered the numbers changed.

"The only appropriate way to set

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Robert Greco

Colleges' Plan for Inter-Campus Degrees Gains

Students Would Be Able to Earn BA or MA From School Without Attending

BY NOEL GREENWOOD
Times Staff Writer

The State University and Colleges system Tuesday took its first step toward creation of regional and statewide degree programs for both undergraduate and graduate students.

A committee of state university trustees endorsed the programs in principle, and the full board of trustees is expected to give its approval today at a meeting in Los Angeles.

The regional programs would be for students who are unable to find the degree offering they want at their nearest state university or college campus, and are unable to attend a distant campus that does offer the degree.

The statewide program would enroll students who could live anywhere in the state, studying largely on their own. Their degrees would be awarded by the system's board of trustees instead of an individual campus.

Off-Campus Locations
Both proposals are an outgrowth of the external degree program now operating from six state university campuses with an enrollment of about 1,000. That program takes existing degree offerings to off-campus locations for students, most of them working adults, who are unable or unwilling to enroll in a traditional on-campus program.

The regional and statewide degree proposals unveiled Tuesday, however, would go well beyond that approach.

One reason for the proposals is that state university officials are anxious to head off the development in California of a new and separate public higher education system that would offer non-traditional degree programs throughout the state.

Legislation to establish such a system has been introduced in the State Senate, and a joint legislative committee headed by Assemblyman John Vasconcelos (D-San Jose) is developing a similar proposal of its own.

There's a need in this state and the question is, who's going to fill it? state university Trustee W. O. Weisbach said Tuesday, alluding to the rapidly developing competition for the traditional student.

Joint Programs Seen
The proposal for regional degree programs stems chiefly from the fact that not all 19 of the state university and college campuses offer the same degree programs.

For example, California State College, Sonoma, located near Santa Rosa in Northern California, offers no master's degree in engineering. But under the regional approach, the state university campus at San Francisco could extend its engineering program to the Sonoma campus. The two campuses would then issue a joint master's degree.

The Sonoma campus would be spared the need to mount a new engineering program, and its students would be forced to go elsewhere to earn their engineering degree.

The planning committee had approved the project on condition that the developer comply with local statement standards recommended by the County Health Department, 65 decibels outside and 45 decibels in the home sleeping area.

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Fund Impound Endangers UCI Program for Stroke Victims

BY GEORGE WETZ
Times Staff Writer

One of the most successful medical programs in the fight against heart disease, stroke and cancer had its beginnings in Orange County, but may meet its end in the White House.

The program to train volunteers to help in the "rehabilitation" of stroke victims—that is, to help them patients once again lead normal lives—could terminate because of the impoundment of funds by the Nixon Administration.

In stressing the importance of the program, Dr. Robert Combs, associate dean of the UC Irvine college of medicine and coordinator of Area VIII of the California Regional Medical Programs (CRMP), said it has not always been recognized that many stroke patients can lead normal lives.

"I think our program of training volunteers has had a lot to do with the acknowledgment that stroke victims can come out of the back bedroom and go into a life," Combs said in an interview.

"It used to be pretty generally thought that people who had had strokes were done for, at least as far as most of their social contacts were concerned," he said.

"We have shown that they can go a long way back toward the kind of life they had before, many of them all the way."

The stroke volunteer training program was begun by Area VIII, which has its headquarters at UC Irvine. It is part of the California regional medical program, which is part of the national effort against the three major causes of death. That program was begun 15

ter President Johnson, appointed the DeBakey Commission in 1964.

The last round of government financing for the programs provided money for the training of stroke volunteers throughout California and the other states, all modeled on the Orange County training program begun by Area VIII at UCI, Combs said.

It is, however, one of the medical weapons against cancer, heart disease

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County Endorses Fiesta for 2,000 Planners Will Be Held in L.A. Park

BY RAY HERBERT
Times Staff Writer

A Mexican fiesta is being planned for 2,000 visiting city planners at Los Angeles' Pueblo Park and its restored shops, the historic Pico House, where only limited gatherings are normally allowed.

The party will be staged outdoors within a temporary enclosure to keep the public out. Guests will mill around the park's streets and wander through the Pico House, which fire officials consider unsafe.

The planners also will be led down into the Pueblo's mysterious "cave-combs," another concern for firemen.

The fiesta will serve as a gala farewell for many of the 4,000 planning commissioners, planning directors and public officials attending the American Society of Planning Officials' 1973 national planning conference next month.

Recently the Pico House, the city's first major hotel, figured in a controversy over a suburban high school's unsuccessful attempt to use the building for a senior prom.

A school representative was told "all" was needed to get permission to use it.

The Pico House was built in 1870. Part of it was used as part of the Pueblo state historic park near the downtown Civic Center. It has been declared unsafe for groups of 50 or more, but exceptions have been made.

"The building doesn't meet standards for virtually any use," said Louis Segal, fire prevention engineer in the state fire marshal's office here, after inspecting it for the fiesta.

Station Chief Stanley Borden of the Los Angeles Fire Department called it a problem for the city.

It also has been a recurring headache for El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Commission, the park's supervising Los Angeles' Old Plaza.

Just how the building should be used has been clouded as far as some commissioners are concerned.

A 1970 memo from William M. Probert, the commission's general manager, cited its use for "official county and public officials who could help enhance the (Pueblo) project."

At the time the high school group

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