Sipple Takes Off Into Retirement

■ Charles Sipple retires from Airports after 37 years of City service.

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor, and Airport Staff
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

AIRPORTS — Charlie Sipple, veteran of the Harbor, Public Works and Airport Departments, retired with a party March 30. He has worked for the City since 1969.

Charlie Sipple was Chief of Airports Construction and Maintenance since November 1995. He had administrative responsibility for maintenance and in-house construction at all four airports under the Department's jurisdiction: Los Angeles International, Ontario International, Palmdale Regional and Van Nuys. Charlie was also responsible for developing and coordinating the airports' water and energy conservation, recycle, alternative fuels, and hazardous materials programs.

Charlie began his City of Los Angeles career with the Harbor Department in March 1969 as a Maintenance Laborer. He later promoted to Maintenance and Construction Helper and Mechanical Helper. He transferred to Los Angeles World Airports in August 1973 and then was promoted to Air Conditioning Mechanic in February 1979. He transferred back to the Harbor in September 1984 and was promoted to Los Angeles World Airports in May 1985 as an Air Conditioning Mechanic Supervisor. He was promoted to Public Works in January 1989 as a Construction and Maintenance Supervisor, and returned to the Los Angeles World Airports in February 1990 as an Airport Maintenance Superintendent. He remained with Los Angeles World Airports and was promoted to Director of Airport Maintenance I in September 1992, as a Director of Airport Maintenance II in November 1995, and finally as an Airport Manager III in May 2000.

The Club wishes Charlie much happiness in retirement!

Charles Sipple with his family.

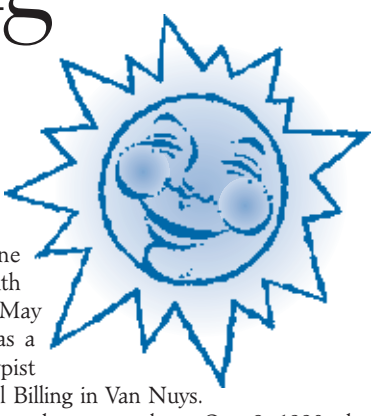
Back row, from left: Dan Campbell, Manuel Cheng, Silvia Mejia, Richard Shintani, Mike Mauldin, Russ Lewis and Bill Vasquez. Front row: Brian Anderson, Sonia Mattingly, Wilson Quon, India Griffin and Janice Johnson.

From left: Jose Lopez, LAX, 9 years; Jose De Loera, LAX, 5 years; Bryan Jackson, Ontario, 2 years; and Jose Rodriguez, Ontario, 6 years.

From left: Nelson Loureiro, LAX, 6 years; Matus Uriel, LAX, 9 years; Brad Penir, LAX, 16 years; and Ed Melara, LAX, 20 years.

Back row, from left: Wally Fuchino, Ted Oka, Andy Viloria and Reggie. Front: Marty Keffer, Al Carlson and Dennis Klain.

Good Morning and Goodbye



■ "Morning person" Charlene Valdez retires from the DWP after 17 years of service.

Story by Gail Seltzer, DWP, Club Member
Photo courtesy Gail Seltzer

DWP — "Who can turn the world on with her smile? Who can take a nothing day, and suddenly make it all seem worthwhile?" Besides Mary Tyler Moore, the answer is the DWP's Charlene Valdez.

After 17 exemplary years with the DWP, Charlene has decided to retire. Effective July 1, Charlene will begin a new exciting chapter in her life.

Charlene Valdez.

I first met Charlene several years ago when I went to the Account Services Unit. She would pass by my desk and always try to get me to smile in the morning. Smiling and morning for me just doesn't happen, except on days off. But she never gave up on me, although she did nickname me "Grumpy." Charlene is such a beautiful person, inside and out, always with a positive attitude, has a great sense of humor, has a big kind loving heart, very generous and giving, and is always a joy to be around. Even though in the mornings she still likes to drive me nuts, I am going to really miss her. The light will be dimmer once she leaves us.

Charlene started with the DWP May 1, 1989, as a Clerk Typist for Special Billing in Van Nuys. A little more than a year later, Oct. 8, 1990, she was promoted to a Customer Service Representative and went to the Customer Call Center. On June 18, 1991, Charlene transferred to the Account Services/Billing Unit. Her next and final transfer came Feb. 28, 2000, when she went to the Valley Field Investigation Unit.

I asked for a few words from her supervisor, Wayne Dickinson, and this is what he had to say: "Charlene is a hard worker; a dedicated, good wife; loves her family; loves animals; easy to get along with; fun to joke with; and will be missed."

Charlene is looking forward to continuing her new hobby of raising and training Keeshonds for show tournaments, taking care of all her turtles, her garden, her home and spending more time with her family. There are a lot of traveling plans within the next year to include Hawaii, Montana and North Dakota. She also wants to go back to college and take "fun" classes like stained glass windows. Charlene is very creative and talented and enjoys making things for other people.

Congratulations Charlene, enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!