



Alive!



SERVING OVER
18,000 CITY AND
DWP EMPLOYEES

City Employees Club of Los Angeles

Vol. 7 • No. 8

August 2008

Say Yes to ClubFest! Tix Go Up Sept. 1

Now's your last chance to purchase ClubFest tickets before the prices go up, so don't wait!



CLUB STORE – Be smart with your money: Buy your ClubFest tickets now, before the price goes up Sept. 1.

ClubFest 2008 is set for Sunday, Oct. 5 at Calamigos Ranch, in the hills overlooking Malibu.

The great Club family event sells out every year, so don't get caught without tickets.

ClubFest 2008 will be everything you have come to love about the biggest day in the Club's year: great food, games, raffles, Ferris wheel rides, popcorn and hot dog carts ... and the ever-popular foam machine!

Buy your tickets now, before the price goes up. If you buy by Aug. 31, prices are:

- Members \$12
- Children: \$10
- Nonmembers: \$15

On or after Sept. 1: All tickets will be \$20

See more information on page 15.

'Real Lovefest' Is LaBonge's Way Of Saying Thanks

Mr. L.A. invites 500 City employees to his annual 'thank-you' barbeque.



CITY COUNCIL – "It's a real lovefest!" is how one City employee described Councilman and Club Member Tom LaBonge's annual barbecue for City employees, held July 17.

With the barbecue luncheon, LaBonge said thanks to hundreds of City employees that support his district from a number of departments, including Rec and Parks, ITA, LAPD, LAFD, Public Works/Sanitation, and others.

The barbecue took place in the Friendship Auditorium in Griffith Park.

"It's a way to say thank you for helping the people of Los Angeles," Tom LaBonge said in his remarks. "There's nothing more rewarding than when you help someone who thought they never would be helped."

For more information and photos, see the story on page 30.

Principal Clerk III Marlene Greenfield near her desk at the Pacific Area Police Station.



58 YEARS OF SERVICE & COUNTING

Marlene Greenfield is the woman with the longest active tenure in the City — 58 years of City service. From Dragnet to Bill Parker, this LAPD civilian remembers it all.

STORY, PAGE 9.

Alive! photo by Angel Gomez



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New T-Shirts Are Cool and Hot!

See Club Store, Page 53.

ALIVE! INTERVIEW



58

How long have you worked for the City? Marlene Greenfield, the woman with the longest active tenure of City service, has worked for the City for more than 58 years. And she doesn't know when she's going to retire – or she's not telling.

From *Dragnet* to Bill Parker, this LAPD civilian remembers it all. Let her tell you how it was – and how it is now.

58 YEARS

STILL GOING STRONG

THE ALIVE!
INTERVIEW

Marlene Greenfield of the LAPD is the woman with the most years of City service—58 years—who's still working. *Alive!* talks with her about a range of topics, including how things have changed and stayed the same, the memorable events, some colorful Police chiefs, and civil service.

On Friday, July 11, Club CEO John Hawkins and Member Services Director Angel Gomez produced an Alive! Interview with Marlene Greenfield at the Pacific Area Police Station, where she has worked since the facility opened in 1973. —Ed.

Alive! SO YOU STARTED WORKING AT THE BUREAU OF ASSESSMENTS, AND THEN FULL TIME WITH THE BUREAU OF STREET MAINTENANCE, IN 1950.

Marlene Greenfield: It was 58 years May 1st.

FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS MAY 1ST. INCREDIBLE.

Marlene: Originally it was part-time.

AND THEN YOU TRANSFERRED TO THE LAPD. WHAT WAS YOUR ORIGINAL STATION, YOUR ORIGINAL PRECINCT?

Marlene: I was in the communications division, teletype unit, down in the old City Hall.

HOW DID THAT TELETYPE DIVISION WORK?

Marlene: Anybody who wanted to communicate with any other division, any division to division, there was like a switchboard there, an old-fashioned plug-in switchboard. You answered the switchboard, found out what they wanted, and hooked them up like an operator would. It was an old, antique setup.

AT THAT TIME DID POLICE OFFICERS HAVE RADIO COMMUNICATION?

Marlene: They had some. They had the radio room.

Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Director



Marlene Greenfield, Records Clerk III, LAPD.



Los Angeles Police Dept. 58 years of City Service
The female City employee with the most years of consecutive City service

GREW UP IN: Boyle Heights

MARITAL STATUS: Single

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW: *Perry Mason*. Plus: "I watch a lot of 'judge' shows."

FAVORITE MUSIC: Broadway showtunes.

FAVORITE MUSICAL: "There are a lot of real good ones: *Phantom* is good, and so is *Wicked*."

WHAT SHE DOES ON A FRIDAY NIGHT: "I sit on the 405."

AFTER SHE SITS ON THE 405: "I usually go home and just relax and take it easy, or if I have something to do or somewhere to go, it depends. Or I read, or knit, or sew."

FAVORITE BOOKS: History books.

FAVORITE MOVIE: "I don't go to movies that often. I have a DVD player, but I don't use it."

PERSONAL HERO, OUTSIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT: "John Kennedy and then Robert Kennedy. I worked on both of their campaigns. In fact, we were supposed to be at the Ambassador the night Bobby Kennedy was killed, and for some reason or other we didn't go."

WOULD SHE DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN: "Most of it."



Marlene Greenfield was named Woman of the Year twice, by different Business and Professional Women's Associations.

A page and photo from Marlene's LAPD personnel file.

HOW DID YOU WORK YOUR WAY INTO THE LAPD?

Marlene: I got a promotion, and there was no opening in the department I was in, and I knew the personnel director there and some of the people in his office. And he called over to our Personnel and asked if there was an opening, and they said, "Yes, two places; one's teletype communications unit and the other was R and I" (Records and Identification). And he said he wouldn't let me go to R and I. So I ended up with the teletype unit.

DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT BECOMING A SWORN OFFICER?

Marlene: When I first came on the job, yes. I wanted to be a policewoman if I could work with juveniles, but they wouldn't promise you anything at the time.

When I first came on the job they wouldn't hire me because I wasn't 18. And at that time, the officers dictated reports to the clerical people, and they were afraid poor, sensitive

ears might hear something they shouldn't hear, language you shouldn't hear. And so I went to work for Bank of America. I went to work for an insurance company, and then I finally came back to the City.

HOW DID YOUR JOB CHANGE FROM THE 1950S TO TODAY?

Marlene: When I first went to communications, I was just a clerk typist or a senior—a category between clerk typist and seniors. And

A SENSE OF FAMILY

WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING FOR THE LAPD IN 1950?

Marlene: It was a family. It was smaller, and everybody knew everybody, especially when I was downtown. It was in what I call the old City Hall. That's where the Police Department was originally. It was in City Hall. Before they built Parker Center they were in City Hall.

Marlene Greenfield: The female City employee with the most years of consecutive City service

WHAT WAS THE APPLICATION PROCESS LIKE?

Marlene: I don't remember it being very hard. First of all, the first application I filed was when I was still in high school. That was a long time ago.

just like the clerk typist is today, you did all the work. You did everything there was to do. And you did it. No problem.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TODAY?

Marlene: Well, we're short-handed ... and they care here. An example is I've got 11 people working for me. I'm short four. So you make do with what you have.

YOU SAID IT WAS LIKE A FAMILY.

Marlene: Yes, it was closer, but it depends on where you work. This station now, most of the people here [Pacific Area] know each other. They do things for each other. If something happens, they're all there to help you. It's more like a family would be, and I think they have that in every one of the divisions.

HAS TECHNOLOGY MADE THE JOB EASIER, MORE EFFICIENT?

Marlene: It used to be like a small teletype, almost like a typewriter teletype would be, and that was the means of communications. You had the ticker tape, where you type things on tape and were able to send things out. Now, you've got these HPs (desktop computers). When they work they're fine. We've got some good ones now.

We've had some excellent command people who care. Our own commander – Capt. II Joseph Hiltner – any time he walks by the records unit he puts his head in and says hi to everybody. He's the first captain to that in years.



Club CEO John Hawkins (center) and Alive! editor John Burnes interview Marlene Greenfield at the Pacific Area station.

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“ I don't think a good part of the public realizes what the [LAPD] officers have to put up with or go through. ”

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When I was out sick, I got phone calls from him, from the lieutenants: “Do you need anything? Can we get you anything? Do you have somebody that can pick stuff up for you?” That's why I say it's like a little town when somebody needs something.

We had a police officer here pass away recently of cancer. The support she got was unreal, from the whole department. They had barbeques for her to raise money for her. The guys were out there all the time.

OUR NEIGHBOR HAD A HEART ATTACK, AND HE'S A RESERVE OFFICER IN THE VALLEY. CHIEF WILLIAM BRATTON CALLED HIM THREE TIMES TO SEE HOW HE WAS DOING. I WAS IMPRESSED. THAT BLEW ME AWAY.

Marlene: [Chief Bratton] remembers you. He knows who you are. That's the attitude here.

If somebody's involved in something, everybody helps. We've done a lot of things like work with kids. We've worked with different charities. I've worked with the Cancer Fund.

I used to volunteer with the Baker to Vegas run. We used to go out and take pictures.

THAT'S WHAT THE CLUB DOES. IN FACT, *Alive!* DOES A BIG SPREAD ON BAKER TO VEGAS EVERY YEAR.

Marlene: This was years ago. I was a lot younger! We were the part of the spoilers, part of the support team. We also worked with the kids, the community relations program, which is interesting to work with.

WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS TO GET INVOLVED?

Marlene: Well, depending on where they're working, they should get involved if they can, yes. If they've got a situation like the Police Department, it's very easy to get involved with community relations programs.

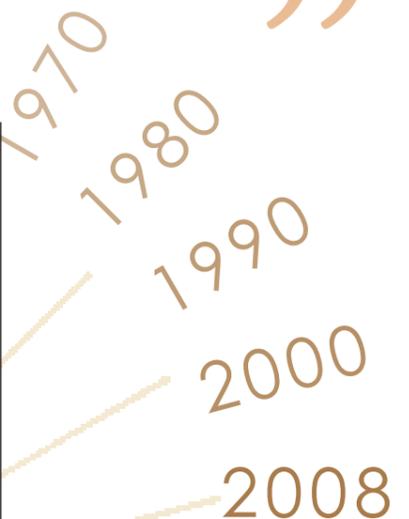
WHAT DOES GETTING INVOLVED DO FOR A PERSON?

Marlene: Well, it depends on the person. We work with the Cancer Society, with the Daffodil Days and projects like that. We also get involved in other organizations. I'm very active in another organization, Business and Professional Women, and we have all sorts of programs come up.

The Police Department has a women's conference every year, not only for the women, but for any Police personnel. The speakers they bring in and the materials are fantastic.

SO GET INVOLVED.

Marlene: Just get involved. Do something.



HAVE YOU NOTICED A CHANGE OVER THE YEARS IN THE WAY THAT THE POLICE DEPT., EVEN POLICE STATIONS, SEE THE COMMUNITY AROUND THEM? IS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MORE DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY NOW THAN IT WAS WHEN YOU STARTED?

Marlene: I think so.

IN WHAT WAYS?

Marlene: Well, we have a community relations program. Officers are assigned to work with the public. There are boosters clubs. And the officers have meetings with the community. So they're quite involved in a lot of things.

SO YOU'VE SEEN THAT CHANGE SINCE YOU STARTED?

Marlene: Yes, there's more now than there used to be. It's good for the kids that are involved, because we've got these programs that they can participate in, that they can get involved in. And they also learn, because they come in and work in the station, too. We've got a good group of kids.

JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

Marlene: If you've ever seen *Dragnet*, that's where they did their filming, in [our teletype unit] in Parker Center. They did a lot of filming there.

WERE YOU IN ANY EPISODES?

Marlene: Yes. [*Dragnet* producer] Jack Webb was a stickler for details.

HE WAS A FORMER POLICE OFFICER HIMSELF.

Marlene: [Right.] They used to use the teletype machines. Well, they brought a bunch of models in who didn't know

how to put their hands on the keyboards. So [Webb] got some of us

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Marlene Greenfield shows John Hawkins, Club CEO, the way to her office.



From left: Capt. Il Joseph Hiltner, Club CEO John Hawkins and Marlene Greenfield look over her original LAPD employee file.

Marlene Greenfield and John Hawkins, Club CEO, in front of the wooden bins that she uses as part of her job as a records manager.

ALIVE! INTERVIEW **58 YEARS**

MARLENE GREENFIELD

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Hired** May 1, 1950, as a Clerk Typist in Street Maintenance.
- **Transferred** Dec. 17, 1951 to the Los Angeles Police Dept. as an Intermediate Clerk Typist/Records Manager.
- Was **promoted** Nov. 5, 1956 to Senior Clerk Typist/Acting Secretary to the Commanding Officer, Communications Division.
- **Conducted Teletype training** at the Police Academy and various divisions.
- Was **promoted** Dec. 17, 1967 to Principal Clerk/Records Division and assigned to Venice. Was the Records Unit Supervisor.
- Was **promoted** Oct. 26, 1972 to Principal Clerk II. Became Principal Clerk III on July 1, 1984. She is responsible for eight employees.
- Is **responsible** for organizing the Dept. Records Managers, now called the Area Records Managers Association (ARMA).
- **Active member** of the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Association. She has been an officer and held chairmanships since joining in May 1957. She is also a member of the Los Angeles City Supervisors and Superintendents Association; ACEBSA; the Civic Center Women's Council; and the California Law Enforcement Association for Records Supervisors, Inc.
- **Has received numerous honors and awards**, including Civilian Employee of the Year for Pacific Area (sponsored by a booster organization); Woman of the Year by her local Business and Professional Women's Association; and from the Hollywood Business and Professional Women's Association. She was also honored by the LAPD as the Civilian Employee with the most seniority. Her picture has been on a plaque hanging in the lobby of Parker Center.
- She has **volunteered her time** with the Los Angeles Marathon; the Jimmy Stewart Relay Races; Baker to Vegas Challenge Relay; American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer;" and Daffodil Days for the American Cancer Society.

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in there. It was kind of funny, because I didn't realize that I wore a watch that had a broken strap, and that showed up. We were surprised they didn't spot it.

SO YOU WERE IN *Dragnet*?

Marlene: My hands were in *Dragnet*.

HOW MANY EPISODES?

Marlene: There were several. It was fun.

MEMORABLE PEOPLE AND EVENTS**WHO ARE SOME OF THE MEMORABLE PEOPLE FROM YOUR TIME AT THE LAPD?**

Marlene: Bill Parker.

WHY IS THAT?

Marlene: He was a stickler for making sure things went right, but he was also very humanitarian. If somebody needed something or if something happened, he was there. Years ago you couldn't just take a vacation. If you took more than a certain amount, you had to get permission. So I had wanted to go to Europe, and I had a chance to go with a group. And I said something to him, like, "As long as I'm there, I want to go spend two weeks in Israel," because I had family there. So I got a note from him, saying, "If I let you go, you've got to come back and tell us all about it." That's the type of person he was.

WOULD HE BE ON A LIST OF YOUR HEROES?

Marlene: Parker, [Daryl] Gates, and Bernie Parks, most of the time. I knew Bernie very well. Bernie's daughter worked for me at one time.

AND HOW ABOUT CHIEF BRATTON?

Marlene: I don't know him that well. He was very nice when we went over [to Parker Center] for a [years-of-service] pin ceremony.

He invited a couple of us up to his office. He heard that we had his wife's book [Ricki Kleiman] and that it was autographed. So he insisted on giving us his autograph and his books, too.

WHICH EVENTS STICK OUT? WERE YOU EVER ASKED TO WORK EXTREME OVERTIME DURING THE EARTHQUAKES, OR FIRES, OR RIOTS, OR ANY OF THOSE MEMORABLE THINGS?

Marlene: During the Watts riots I was in Europe. I got letters from home with copies of the *LA Times* with stories of what was going on. We worked overtime on some of those things, but it's usually police officers who do all of the overtime, and we do all the paperwork to follow up.

WHAT ABOUT THE '84 OLYMPICS?

Marlene: I didn't really work with the Olympics other than to collect pins! I've got quite a collection.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO WORK DURING 9/11?

Marlene: Scary. 9/11 was scary to everybody, I think. Hopefully, we won't ever have anything even close to it. But we have the airport [as part of the Pacific Area], and we have a good group out at the airport.

DID WHAT YOU DO EVERY DAY CHANGE DURING THAT TIME?

Marlene: The paperwork changed a little bit. I don't think we had as many people coming in and doing the little things. They were all too busy worrying about the big ones.

We've had other things here. We had a plane crash off to the side of the building. Two little commuter planes hit each other just above. There was a great big old tree alongside of this building, and if that tree hadn't been there, the plane would have hit the building. We had kids and everybody bringing parts of the plane and everything else in for weeks on end.

WHAT WAS THE TOUGHEST TIME TO BE IN THE DEPARTMENT?

Marlene: I think after the riots; either one of the two riots was rough on the officers. It was rough on everybody concerned. We had food being shipped in here like it was going out of business, for the officers and the outside units that were here. The public is good to the officers.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT 9/11 WAS THE SCARIEST?

Marlene: I think it was the scariest, because we didn't know what was going to happen next. We didn't know what happened then, either, at first. We saw it on television. That kind of worried [me]. It still worries [me].

THOUGHTS OF RETIREMENT**DO YOU PLAN ON RETIRING ANY TIME SOON?**

Marlene: I'm planning on it.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? DO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL?

Marlene: I do a lot of traveling anyway, every chance I get.

WHERE'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO GO?

Marlene: Well, I enjoyed Hawaii. I enjoyed Europe.

DO YOU HAVE A PLACE THAT YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO THAT YOU HAVEN'T GONE?

Marlene Greenfield has good things to say about her supervisor, Capt. II Joseph Hiltner, who stands behind her.

Marlene:

There are a lot of places I'd like to go, but I wouldn't go because of the conditions in the world right now. I'd love to go to the Olympics in China, but I wouldn't go. There are too many problems over there right now. I'll stay home.

A QUIET HERO**WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT THE LAPD?**

Marlene: I don't think a good part of the public realizes what the officers have to put up with or go through. If they were to have to sit in a station a couple of days and listen to what goes on when they bring prisoners in, with the mouthing off and the language the [suspects] use, and the disrespect out there ... Every time officers get out of their car, they can get themselves in trouble. I wouldn't want their job.

DO YOU WISH THAT YOU HAD A HIGHER PROFILE? DO YOU WISH THAT THE PUBLIC KNEW THE HARD WORK THAT YOU DO?

Marlene: They pretty much know it, because they're on the phone to us all the time. We're the middlemen. The officer takes the report, brings it in, and we put the file numbers on the report. We put them into the system. And then we file them. We send them downtown or wherever. The citizens call us to know about how to get a copy of a report or they need information. They need the report number before they can claim their insurance. We have a lot of contact, telephone wise, with the public. And I think that's more than enough.

WELL, THANK YOU, MARLENE.

Marlene: Thank you for coming out!