

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 9 in a series.
SEPTEMBER 2008



Meet Rico Dawson.

AGE: "58."

BIRTHPLACE: "Ohio."

MARITAL STATUS: "Married."

FAMILY: "Five brothers and six sisters."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:
"Camping in the woods with friends."

MOVED TO THE CITY: "1986."

EDUCATION: "I graduated from high school and have some college."

MILITARY: "I was drafted into the Army in 1968, and got out in 1970. I was stationed at Fort Sill and Fort Ord, and then I did a tour in Vietnam, in particular at Phu Bai and Tainym. I saw quite a bit of action, and I was armed with an M-16."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "A home."

LAST JOB: "I worked for Intel in the accounting dept., back in 1988."

FAVORITE SPORT: "Football."

RELIGION: "Protestant."

FAVORITE FOOD: "Lamb."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Little Caesar."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Edward G. Robinson."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Greta Garbo."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "I Love Lucy."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "All music, especially classical."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Hershey's bar."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "In Flag Park."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:
"Hollywood Bowl."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Try to do good, do right! Don't harm anyone."

LAST BOOK READ: "The Bible."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ? "I hate war. I don't think it's right for young people to be dying. It's a senseless waste of life."

IF YOU WERE MAYOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS SITUATION?
"First, I would recognize that there are several types of homeless people, and not lump all of us into one category. I do not use drugs or alcohol, yet the only place to spend the night is in the mission, where most of the homeless are drug addicts and alcoholics. The mission is demoralizing and an embarrassment to me; if I were mayor, I would provide more respectable housing options, and I would try to funnel more money to the cause."

The Club gave Rico a "Club Earth-Friendly Bag," filled with three pairs of socks, water, snacks, an L.A. City shirt, \$20 and a \$25 McDonald's gift card. He was very appreciative.

The interview took place Aug. 19 at "Flag Park" at the County Administration Building, one block from City Hall.



Newsbrief

HARBOR SUPPORTS BANNING:

The Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners unanimously approved spending up to \$900,000 on a transportation exhibit at the Banning Museum in Wilmington. The exhibit, being coordinated by The Friends of Banning Park Corporation, spotlights the transportation history of the Los Angeles Harbor between 1850 and 1915 and will be separated by eras: Spanish and Mexican Era, American Era, Railroad and Port Development, and Transportation Legacy of the Los Angeles Harbor. The exhibit will be housed in 3,000 square feet and is expected to take two years to complete.

"It is important for the residents and visitors to this area to understand the history that brought us to the point of being a critical transportation and commerce hub for the nation," said Los Angeles Harbor Commission President S. David Freeman. "The Transportation Exhibit Project at the Banning Museum is an important addition to the area, and we are pleased to be able to assist with its financing through the existing community mitigation funds – this is what the fund was intended to support."

Funding for this project comes from the Port's Community Aesthetic Mitigation Program, created as part of the China Shipping lawsuit settlement in 2003. A total of \$13.3 million was set aside for projects in the Wilmington community. It is anticipated that \$3.1 million will be expended on the already-approved Wilmington Youth Sailing Center and \$2.7 million has been approved for an aquatics center at the Wilmington YMCA.

"The Board of the Friends of Banning joins me in expressing deep appreciation to the Harbor Commission, our founder Nancy Banning Call, our Museum Director Michael Sanborn, and a wonderful cross-section of individuals who helped us obtain this award," remarked Hank Hilty, President of the Friends. Hilty acknowledged the broad interest and excitement this project is generating as they continue to move closer to their Campaign fund raising goals. Additionally he mentioned that the Museum anticipates this exhibition will attract Museum visitors not only from this region but from around the country and international guests who are visiting this area.

A call for proposals in Wilmington went out to the community in 2007. Types of proposed conceptual projects being sought were those providing a nexus between the proposed project and the impact of Port operations. Viable concepts included: open space and parks; landscaping and beautification; and educational, arts or athletic facilities. Received proposals were reviewed by the Port Community Advisory Committee and then sent to the California State Lands Commission for evaluation of consistency with the Tidelands Trust and the Public Trust Doctrine. The project then came before the Board of Harbor Commissioners for approval. A similar fund and process is in place for projects in the San Pedro area.

ZOO LATINO HERITAGE:

The Los Angeles Zoo kicks off Latino Heritage Month (September) with Latino Heritage Celebration Sept. 13-14. The festive celebration focuses on Latino heritage and cultural traditions. Activities will include traditional Latin music and dances, fun crafts for kids, delicious food, handcrafted artwork, keeper talks and a self-guided tour of the animals native to Latin America. Come enjoy the sights, sounds and festive traditions of Latino culture.

The special event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 13-14. The Zoo and Botanical Gardens is at 5333 Zoo Dr. in Griffith Park.

This event is free with paid Zoo admission. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L. A. Zoo Website at www.lazoo.org.

Who are the people you see every day?