

Career Choice

by Jim Follis

So, what do you want to be when you grow up?

Personally, I'm still looking. Never mind that I'm in my twilight years, or the fact that I'm considered a registered senior citizen.

I'm still looking for that perfect job. The one that provides a really big paycheck and consumes a very small amount of my time. I want a personal challenge, yet one that's low on stress. And please, no jobs that require getting up too early in the morning.

How do we end up with the jobs that we get anyhow? Certainly most of us would never have chosen our profession if we had really thought about it.

As I viewed the doctor who had just completed a visual tour of my digestive plumbing system, I just really wondered why he ever chose this profession. Can you imagine giving hose jobs all day long? Somehow I doubt that as an innocent-eyed sixth grader he stood up in class and announced that he was going to be a doctor who gave colonoscopies---all day---every day for years and years.

How about the baker who never dreamed how tough it was going to be as a baker? Why didn't someone tell him that it involved getting up way before the roosters to get the dough ready to bake so that there would be fresh bread in the morning?

And then there's the rest of us who knew

beyond a doubt that we were going to all be pro athletes as early as the first grade, or minimally, Olympic champions of some sort.

I have a friend who trained as a veterinarian and ended up as a pilot. I wonder how much knowledge he was able to transfer to his new job?

My cousin got a law degree, passed the bar and then became a cop in Los Angeles.

I remember starting out in college thinking I was going one direction, and then realized that my real direction was being controlled by my hormones. After losing my scholarship, I changed to a major that didn't have so many labs so that I could work a full-time job to finance my tuition.

Schools can't afford counselors any longer, so how do kids decide what they are going to do for a job that might last for the rest of their lives?

Maybe we should work up a plan to fix this. How about at the age of 16 every child is required to reach into a jar and pull out a fortune cookie that contains a slip of paper that will tell them what their chosen career will be.

"You will have a great future in cat grooming. Hope you aren't allergic to cats."

Perhaps each community should have a "board" that would assist youngsters in selecting their careers. The board would also have slots that needed to be filled for the good of the community.

"Your job, if you choose to live here, will be dog catching. We will provide you with the necessary training and all the required equip-

ment and a free pass to the medical clinic for repairing dog bites and inoculations for rabies and tetanus.

The community job assignment board could also help spread the responsibilities around so that no family is unfairly burdened with the undesirable jobs.

"Ralphie, you will take the position of driving the governor around in her gold Cadillac because you father held the ugly job of being the deep water diver cleaning out the sewer pipes that run under the river. Now your family gets to have an easy job."

What if all jobs were assigned by the political party in power? Look out democrats if Big John gets elected. Might be a lot of you chaps could end up toting weapons in hot climates rather than teaching environmental consequences at the local university. And you right wingers could be in a speck of trouble if Barack gets to hold the reins. Your careers could easily leave a nasty taste in your mouth.

But the truth is, someone must do those jobs that no one else wants to do. Maybe money, responsibility, or just chance spreads us out over those jobs; but can we just hope this all works out? We could some day run out of people interested in going into politics. Or what if we run out of lawyers? Or worse yet, what would it be like if there weren't enough telemarketers?

I'm guessing that we need to do a study. Now there's a job that there's always a need for.

Risk Of West Nile Infection Remains High For Sacramento County

--Stay Protected this Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day is the last holiday of the summer season, unfortunately this doesn't mean it's the end of mosquito season! This weekend many residents will be enjoying barbecues, pool parties and other fun outdoor activities, but the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District would like to remind residents of the risk of West Nile virus. "We're still seeing high numbers of infected mosquito samples" said David Brown, District Manager. "This means

that the risk of becoming infected is very real and residents need to protect themselves with an effective repellent if they are going to be outside," said Brown.

Though the entire Sacramento County has seen constant virus activity this season, many of the infected mosquito samples recently found have been in the southern area. "We are continuing to see West Nile virus activity and residents need to take proper precautions," said Brown. In recent days, the first horse tested

positive for West Nile virus in the area, and a new human case was reported bringing the total to 5 for Sacramento County. Earlier this week, an elderly woman from Southern California died of West Nile virus complications.

This Labor Day weekend, residents are encouraged to practice the District D's of Mosquito Prevention: DRAIN standing water that may produce mosquitoes.

DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoors. DRESS appropriately be wearing long

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County Public Works Wins Two APWA Awards

Awards to Be Presented on September 5

Sacramento, CA. – Two Sacramento County public works departments were presented with the 2008 Project of the Year award in their respective categories by the American Public Works Association, Sacramento Chapter. These awards celebrate public works projects that demonstrate an overall excellence in design, outreach and management.

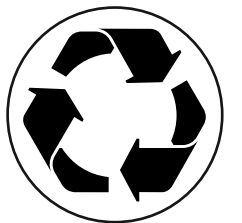
The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) was awarded the 2008 Project of the Year Award for the Upper Northwest Interceptor Section 9 and the Northeast Area Relief project in the Environment Category/Waste, Construction Division 4 (\$10-50 million), Agency size – Large. This project replaced the pre-existing wastewater conveyance system in the northeast area of the County that was nearing operational capacity with a new pipeline that now carries wastewater flows to the Natomas Pump Station and on to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant via the Lower Northwest Interceptor.

The Sacramento County Waste Management and Recycling Department (WMR) was awarded the 2008 Project of the Year for the Kiefer Landfill Entrance Improvements in the Environment Category/Solid Waste, Construction Division 3 (\$2-10 million), Agency size – large. Kiefer Landfill is the primary municipal solid waste disposal facility in Sacramento County and accepts waste from the general public, businesses and private waste haulers. It sits on 1,084 acres of land located near the intersection of Kiefer Boulevard and Grant Line Road.

The APWA awards will be presented to the project team members at the monthly chapter APWA luncheon on Friday, September 5 from 12-2 at the Garden Pavilion at McClellan Business Park.

Source: Sacramento County Public Works Agency

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