



# HEADWAY



Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 2 Number 5 July 2, 1975

## 1975 General System Shake-Up Biggest Ever

This year's general system shake-up was one of the largest ever in RTD's history. A total of 3,900 operators bid to work at the 14 RTD divisions and for the 2,624 regular routes and 1,289 extra board spots.

Held at Division 3 - 10, the Highland Park Facility, the shake-up was also unique in another way: this year vacation times were bid the same time as divisions and routes.

Division 9, the El Monte division, proved to be the most popular and was the first to close. The other two leading divisions were 12 and 6. The rest of the divisions closed as follows: 8, 15, 10, 7, 11, 3, 1, 18, 2, 4, 5.

The 825 operators with the most seniority in the RTD system entered bids

on the first day. The bidding went on for 11 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

After the first two days, bidding was held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. According to Ralph Wilson, transportation staff assistant, an average of 70 bids an hour were taken all during the shake-up.

The first man to bid this year was Merwin C. Park, an operator out of Division 9, who chose to stay at the El Monte Division. Parks is a 42-year veteran of RTD.

According to Wilson, "this year's shake-up bid the largest number of operators than ever before, but there were no problems. Bidding vacations went very smoothly."

The results of the bidding took effect June 15.



Division 9 operator Earl Cross (second from left) tells Division 9 manager George Marsala that he wants to stay at Division 9. George R. Pitchie (in the sweater) also chose to stay at the El Monte division. At far left is Johnny Sampson, UTU Local Chairman.



The three men at the table in the picture above, all of Division 3-10, chose to stay in the Division. From left to right are Harley Colberg, Sydney Chevin and Evan Meyer. Chevin came to RTD in 1942. Colberg and Meyer have been at RTD since 1943. George C. Michaels, Division 3-10 manager, is at left.



Operators wait patiently for their turn to bid during the first hour of this year's general system shake-up. While waiting, they also got a chance to see old friends and socialize out of uniform.



Merwin C. Park, the RTD operator with the most seniority, and the first man to bid, smiles as George Marsala, Division 9 manager, congratulates him.

### New RTD Fare Structure For Next Fiscal Year

The Southern California Rapid Transit District Board of Directors has adopted a 25¢ basic fare and a 25¢ zone structure for the coming fiscal year.

The RTD Board Action occurred at the July 2 meeting. The new fare structure will go into effect on Sunday, July 6.

Under the new fare structure, a passenger will pay a quarter in the zone in which his trip begins, be able to travel through an adjoining designated "buffer" zone

and pay another quarter only if he crosses an additional zone boundary.

Under the changed structure, two bus passes will be issued: a \$10 monthly pass good for unlimited riding within one zone and an adjacent zone, and an \$18 monthly pass good for multiple zone use.

Transfers will remain 10 cents. Student fares, and fares for senior citizens and the handicapped will remain unchanged.

# All in A Day's Work at South Park Shops

On a typical day at South Park Shops, at 54th and San Pedro Streets, the 200 employees there are busy working at the many jobs that must be done to keep the RTD rolling.

During a recent visit to the Shops, the RTD's largest maintenance and repair facility, Headway found two South Park Shops employees hard at work applying their special skills.



Horton Thomas, mechanic "B", uses a disc-sander in an accident repair task. Thomas has been with RTD since June, 1971.



Willie Reese, left, a mechanic "A" who has been at South Park since October, 1960, and Hazzie Searcy, right, leadman and mechanic "A", at RTD since 1971, were repairing battery cables.

## New Construction Slated at Div. 3, 7

The completion this month of the new yard at Division 9 in El Monte is the first in a series of renovations and construction being planned for RTD divisions during the next few years, according to Sam Black, former assistant chief engineer and now Chief Engineer of the newly-created bus facilities department.

The bus facilities department was created last February by a resolution passed by the RTD Board of Directors. The board action placed the new department under Administration and expanded the department's staff to include several new engineers and a resident architect, R. Donald Jaye, of Los Angeles. The architect's work in the bus facilities engineering department will involve planning and designing new RTD transportation facilities. He will also provide recommendations for space planning and other architectural features.

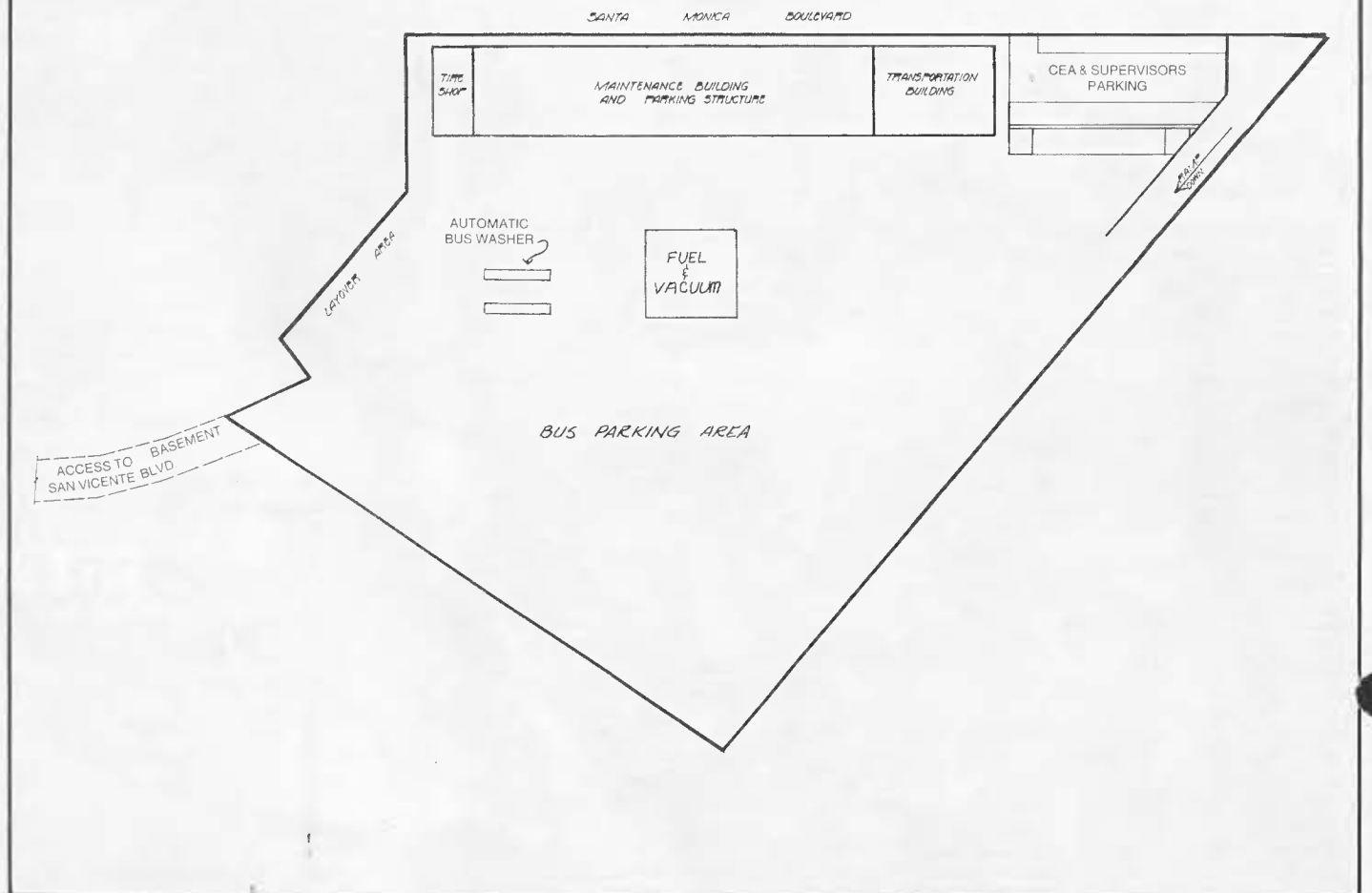
The new yard at El Monte has been under construction during the past year and a half. It is located on 12½ acres of land adjacent to the recently-completed El Monte Busway passenger terminal.

Construction at Division 7, at 710 San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, is slated to start in November of this year, and will cost an estimated \$5,438,500.

Plans call for building new facilities on land immediately adjacent to the present yard. The maintenance/transportation complex will be a four-level structure, with bus maintenance facilities located at the ground level. The transportation function will be housed on the second level. The top two levels will be devoted to employee parking.

Plans for Division 3 call for the complete construction of a new 18-space bus maintenance facility. A new four-position fuel facility will also be built to house a large vacuuming system for each fueling station. Propane storage will also be provided at this yard to handle the 40 new mini-buses that have been delivered and which use propane fuel. The first stages of construction are expected to start by February 1976 at an estimated cost of \$3,790,000.

### What Division 7 Will Look Like



The Data Processing Department and the Print Shop have become the second and third departments to move into the new RTD Headquarters at 425 So. Main St. Mail to these departments should be sent to the new address at 425 So. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90017.

### Overwhelming Response to "RTD DAY AT DODGER STADIUM"

More than 700 RTD employees will be on hand at Dodger Stadium on Sunday, July 6, to cheer the Dodgers against the Giants and to take part in "RTD DAY AT DODGER STADIUM."

The response to "RTD DAY" has been overwhelming, according to William Kendall, RTD personnel analyst, who adds that

"RTD Day" has enjoyed one of the biggest employee responses ever for an RTD function.

During "RTD DAY," three employees will also take part in the first-ball ceremonies. The names of the lucky three were drawn July 1st, from cards submitted to the personnel department by RTD ticket holders.





Hugh Oscar Van Patten, of Division 4, was honored as operator of the month for April at the May 21 RTD Board meeting. Van Patten, a 29-year veteran with RTD, drives Line 105 and has a perfect attendance record. He holds a 27-year safety award and was also operator of the month for October in 1960.

Van Patten received his certificate of merit and a check from RTD Director Donald H. Gibbs. James McCullough, Division 4 manager, is on right.



Information operator of the month award for April went to Ms. Jeanette Sprowls, a 10-year veteran with RTD. Ms. Sprowls, who is information operator number 20, has been commended for "her loyalty and dependability on all levels of her job."

Ms. Sprowls received her certificate of merit and a savings bond at the May 21 RTD Board meeting from RTD Director Donald H. Gibbs, while Robert G. Williams, manager of customer relations, looked on.

After the article on Division 6, "Venice by the Sea," appeared in the May 9 issue of Headway, the Editor received the following letter from Division 13 operator Walter F. Pflughoft, Jr., an eight-year veteran at RTD.

As Pflughoft points out, Division 13 is the smallest RTD operating unit, but it is classified as a "terminal division," because it does not have a full-time division manager. However, Operator Pflughoft is right, 13 is a friendly and efficient division.

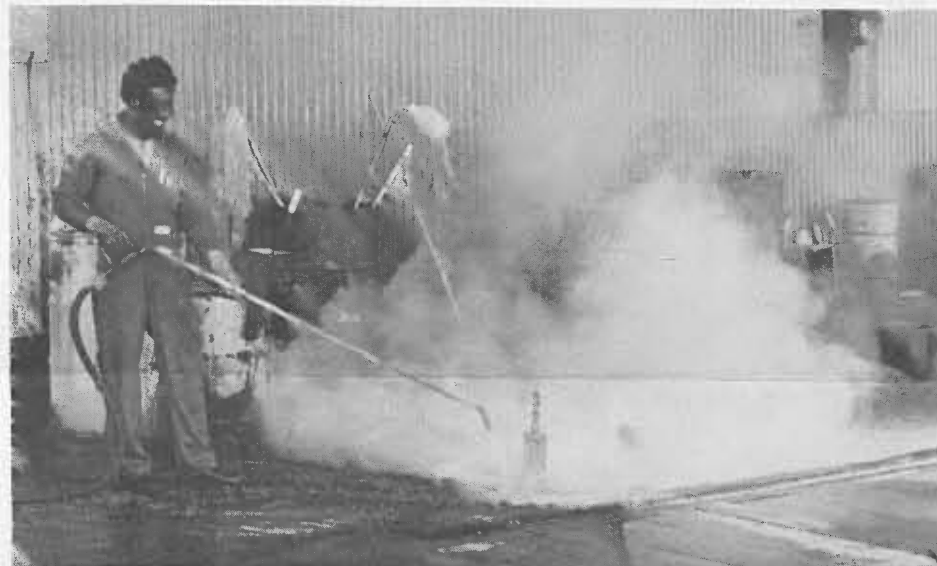
Dear Editor:

In regard to your last issue, Volume 2, Number 3 of Headway, RTD's Division 6, "Venice by the Sea," you have made a grave error. We of Riverside, Division 13, where the palms sway gently with the breeze and only gracious hospitality is a daily gesture of the friendliest people this side of San Francisco, sincerely feel that our "home

away from home" - Division 13 is at present the smallest Division yet! We are asking that a retraction of your "smallest Division 6" statement be made public in your next issue. Our Line 60F goes from San Bernardino to Los Angeles and Line 59 goes from Riverside to Long Beach. Lines 99 and 82 are our local Riverside lines. Line 149 goes from Riverside to U.C.R. and March Air Force Base; Line 606 travels from Upland to Los Angeles and Line 62 offers service from Riverside to La Sierra.

Please feel free to visit our smallest Division 13 - plenty of free coffee and great hospitality - you might just find a need to bring a camera along. I know that "boss" Jim Witt would just love that! Well, thank you in advance - I remain

Sincerely yours  
Walter F. Pflughoft, Jr.  
Operator 739



Keeping RTD bus parts clean and in readiness for use in buses is a daily concern at RTD division maintenance departments.

Above, Leonard Hawkins, Mechanic "B", steams parts for inspection in the steam rack as part of his everyday duties in the maintenance department at Division 3-10. Hawkins started with RTD in 1965 as a Utility "A" and has been a mechanic "B" since 1972.

## Grid System Praised by Valley Residents

The San Fernando Valley Grid system has won numerous devoted supporters in the Valley since its inception last March.

Mrs. Lorraine Judson, of Encino, for example, wrote the following poem as an "Ode" to the Grid System and sent it in to Headway.

Boredom is a thing of the past  
The Grid bus system is here at last.  
A quarter, a dime, my two legs,  
and two blocks away  
I can go anywhere, any day.

Yesterday was bright and clear  
I smiled at passengers,  
they returned their cheer.

I went to the library,  
thought that is a pleasant thing to do  
Read and scanned  
until I had to leave at two.

I had forgotten  
there were very young mothers  
with babies who cried  
Old men with canes and a shaky stride.

Of the blues I am rid  
Thanks to the Grid  
I feel good inside.

Another nice gesture of support comes from St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Northridge. The Church's monthly bulletin, "The Clarion", for the month of May contained the following excerpt from the Reverend Ernest W. Thacker:

"The RTD has just launched a Grid system of buses in the San Fernando Valley with service every 20 minutes, even on Sundays.

"My son and I, this last Sunday, as an experiment, undertook to ride the bus to church. We caught the 155 just 2 blocks from our house and alighted at Burbank and White Oak Avenues. That meant we did have to WALK from there to the church. (Some years ago in reporting on an incident involving the son of a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, the New York Times commented that anyone in Southern California who walked when he could ride was (1) suspect, (2) a Kook, or (3) a displaced New Yorker.) However, the walk did us no harm; in fact it made us feel better. On our return trip, we caught the 154 across the street from the church, transferred to the 155 with almost no wait and reached home within 20 minutes after leaving the church. (Some of us may be turned off if the Minister mentions such broad social issues as war and peace, racial harmony, and economic justice.) But riding the bus is something very practical, very tangible which most of us can do at least once in a while and thereby help our society to kick its costly addiction to the private automobile. So I recommend that we look at the new bus schedules and see where we can make use of them."

Dr. Ernest Thacker



When Division 6 operator Ed Buettner retired after 20 years of service, he was given a farewell party by the men of Division 6 on Friday, May 30th. Buettner was presented with a retirement check from operator Al Gray, and acting manager Art Begg presented Buettner with a commendation signed by the operators from Division 6.

Helping Buettner to celebrate that day were his wife, Helen, and daughter, Caroline.

## Promotions and Transfers

Name	Classification	Div./ Dept.	Date Employed	Date Effective
Alford, Gerald L.	From: Print Shop Clk. To: Utility "A"	3318	5/2/74	3/9/75
Alvarez, Angel A.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Special Agent	3212	7/25/70	2/27/75
Anderson, Quade W.	From: Mechanic "B" To: Mechanic "A"	3309	8/23/71	3/9/75
Andrews, C.H.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Div. Dispatcher	3209	11/13/65	2/22/75
Atwood, Loren L.	From: Mechanic "A" Relief Leadman To: Mechanic "A" Leadman	3302	2/28/46	3/9/75
Balolong, Archimedes D.	From: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker To: Schedule Checker	3500	2/9/73	1/21/75
Baber, John S.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Instructor of V.O.	3215	5/29/71	2/23/75
Barela, James L.	From: Jr. Stock Clerk To: Truck Dr. Clerk	7300	1/2/75	2/19/75
Barta, V.	From: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker To: Schedule Checker	3500	8/22/68	1/25/75
Beard, Andrew C.	From: Jr. Stock Clerk To: Stock Clerk	7300	7/26/73	1/15/75
Begg, Arthur F.	From: Asst. Div. Trans. Mgr. To: Div. Trans. Mgr.	3218	7/15/46	2/16/75
Blackston, James L.	From: Operator-Extra Special Agent To: Special Agent	3900	3/22/69	3/2/75
Bustos, Robert V.	From: Maintainer "B" To: Maintainer "A"	3334	5/19/58	1/26/75
Brooks, D.	From: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker To: Schedule Checker	3500	11/6/69	1/20/75
Broughton, G.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker	3203	7/27/73	2/22/75
Cabrere, Francis X.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Instructor of V.O.	3205	5/16/60	2/21/75
Campbell, Houston J.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Instructor of V.O.	3201	2/23/59	2/20/75
Carpenter, Calvin J.	From: Utility "A" To: Utility "A" Leadman	3303	3/28/72	2/9/75
Castro, P.A.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker	3203	9/14/73	2/27/75
Clark, Gerald R.	From: Mechanic "C" To: Mechanic "B"	3309	8/17/70	2/9/75
Coleman, Madelyn	From: Schedule Typist To: Security Recorder	3900	5/29/74	2/3/75
Coleman, Roy	From: Shipping Clerk To: Storekeeper	7300	5/20/57	1/20/75
Contarino, Alfred J.	From: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker To: Schedule Checker	3500	6/29/73	2/4/75
Cooper, Donald R.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Instructor of V.O.	3209	5/13/58	3/13/75
Covert, Gary L.	From: Truck Driver Clk. To: Shipping Clerk	7300	7/11/73	2/10/75
Craver, George	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Instructor of V.O.	3212	7/2/66	3/7/75
Crawford, Leroy (NMN)	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Special Agent	3207	10/19/63	2/24/75
Criss, Lee R.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Supervisor of V.O.	3212	9/20/69	2/23/75
Cusiter, Edward A.	From: Operator-Extra Schedule Checker To: Schedule Checker	3500	8/7/73	2/21/75
Davis, Jesse R.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Supervisor of V.O.	3207	3/31/72	1/20/75
Diaz, Jesse J.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Instructor of V.O.	3202	8/4/72	2/24/75
Domaloan, Melvin L.	From: Mechanic "C" To: Mechanic "B"	3306	5/16/69	2/9/75
Dominguez, A.G.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Div. Dispatcher	3215	10/17/70	2/23/75
Dorsett, Lee A.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Supervisor of V.O.	3207	8/18/72	2/24/75
Desy, Melvin A.	From: Mechanic "B" To: Mechanic "A"	3314	1/12/72	3/9/75
Douglas, Leslie F.	From: Operator To: Operator-Extra Supervisor of V.O.	3208	1/19/55	2/21/75
Drew, Patrick F.	From: Operator To: Utility "A"	3305	11/11/74	2/26/75
Durfee, Donald R.	From: Mechanic "C" To: Mechanic "B"	3309	3/24/69	2/9/75
Ebli, Frank J.	From: Jr. Stock Clerk To: Traveling Storekeeper	7300	12/24/71	1/10/75
Edwards Jr., Ed (NMN)	From: (Rel) Mopper-Waxer To: Mail Carrier	3302	3/30/73	2/16/75

## Deceased

Name	Classification	Div./ Dept.	Date Employed	Date
Arnold, Ellis O.	Former Mechanic "B" Retired 6/1/53	3305	4/1/09	1/1/75
Blakely, William L.	Former Sta. Master Retired 12/26/58	3299	3/24/20	1/6/75
Browne, Edward G.	Former Mechanic Retired 3/21/74	3312	6/21/40	3/4/75
Carlin, Jack F.	Former Supervisor Retired 6/1/65	3296	3/20/23	1/20/75
Christie, Haakon S.	Former Operator Retired 8/27/62	3207	7/11/44	2/19/75
Eves, Earl Joseph Fagin, John E.	Operator Former Operator Retired 6/1/53	3206 3205	7/15/74 4/27/20	3/17/75 2/2/75
Gracy, Albert Melvin Gray, Oscar V.	Div. Dispatcher Former Operator Retired 6/1/62	3206 3203	8/25/60 11/18/42	2/19/75 10/15/74
Hill, John R.	Former Asst to Gen Supt. of Maint. & Equip. Retired 11/3/71	3399	7/12/39	2/9/75
Krintz, Herman O.	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 2/1/51	3310	7/24/22	1/4/75
Nye, Dorothy M.	Former Div. Steno Retired 9/19/71	3203	6/19/52	2/9/75
Phillips, Leroy	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 12/15/74	3303	1/18/46	2/1/75
Syre, Horace D.	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 6/1/67	3313	6/1/55	1/29/75
Vaccarello, Samuel	Former Mechanic "B" Retired 6/1/53	3306	8/24/09	3/3/75
Whiteside, Earl D.	Former Operator Retired 5/12/63	3320	7/28/22	1/17/75
Wilson, John M.	Former Operator Retired 2/1/57	3212	12/12/19	3/19/75

## Retired

Name	Classification	Div./ Dept.	Date Employed	Date
Bradley, Kenneth	Operator	3211	10/18/46	3/18/75
Breckbill, Lloyd A.	Operator	3203	5/16/39	3/4/75
Caldwell, Carl	Operator	3209	9/1/39	3/17/75
Crawford, John	Operator	3209	2/9/59	2/10/75
Culp, Perry L.	Trafficman	3221	2/19/41	3/13/75
DeGregorio, Lloyd (NMN)	Operator	3210	8/27/36	2/28/75
Delmar, Edward	Operator	3206	3/13/42	3/4/75
Ellis, Lulu "H"	Former Operator Trans. to Ind. Leave 1/15/74	6201	11/18/44	3/1/75
Ferguson, Henry	Div. Dispatcher	3203	11/15/40	2/15/75
Flander, Arthur (NMN)	Operator	3210	2/27/53	3/3/75
Holland, Orval	Former Mechanic "AA" Trans. to Ind. Leave 11/19/74	6201	10/26/45	3/1/75
Horn, Oliver N.	Former Operator Trans. to Ind. Leave 10/30/74	6201	4/29/42	2/1/75
Miller, John	Insurance Manager	2200	12/20/71	3/7/75
Robinson, Robert	Operator	3207	4/3/41	2/1/75
Sheperd, Edward M.	Operator	3209	12/30/42	3/17/75
Trammell, Thomas L.	Supervising Dispatcher	3299	12/12/40	8/8/74
Washington, J.L.	Mail Carrier	3302	12/5/45	2/18/75
Wildish, Francis	Schedule Checker	3500	7/17/36	2/25/75
Wilkinson, Roger	Operator	3209	10/22/41	2/1/75
Wiltgen, Marshall	Operator	3207	3/29/48	12/29/74
Williams, James	Operator	3212	9/24/48	1/28/75
Wine, Paul G.	Operator	3211	6/23/39	1/18/75



When Emil Lodahl retired after 25 years of service he didn't know that the Japanese-style house he had started to build for his wife Anne would turn into an entire Japanese farm.

Emil and his wife preside over a menagerie which includes two Japanese deer, three goats, miniature dogs, horses, Koi fish, chickens, pheasants and white swans.

Lodahl, who lives at 4446 Kewanee St. in Los Angeles, welcomes visits from RTD employees, their family and friends. His phone number is 223-9682.

**HEADWAY**

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