



# HEAD



# WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

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## After 42 Years

### RTD's Most Senior Operator Retires

Merwin C. Park was RTD's most senior operator until he retired on September 13 after 42 years of service with the District and its predecessor agencies.

Park began his career in 1933 as a conductor and motorman at Division 1. In 1946 he became an operator at Division 2 and in 1960 he transferred to Division 9.

Park's last day as an operator was marked by a farewell party at Division 9 which was attended by his family and friends. As a going away present, Tom R. Brown, assistant to the general superintendent of transportation, presented Park with a gift—a picture taken of Park when he started at the District 42 years ago.

The man with the most seniority in the District now becomes Marvin M. DeBrunner, an operator at Division 18, who started with the company on October 9, 1933.



NOT IN SERVICE—This 35F Freeway Flyer isn't flying at the moment, though it is "up in the air."

In the picture George Wheeler, right, Mechanic "B", and Lucilious Jacobs, Mechanic "A", work on the air conditioning system on the coach, and getting it up on the hoists at Division 8 was the only way.

Jacobs started with RTD in 1966 as a Utility "A" and has been a Mechanic "A" since May. Wheeler has been a Mechanic "B" since 1970.

## FIRST 7400 SERIES BUS ARRIVES AT DISTRICT

The first of 100 new 7400 series buses have arrived at Division 2 from the Flixbus Company of Delaware, Ohio. The buses are now expected to start arriving at a rate of one or two per day, reaching an eventual arrival rate of eight or ten buses daily.

### Standard Transit Buses

The buses, described as "standard transit type buses," are very similar to the 7300 series. However, unlike the 7300 series coaches, which were purchased specifically for Busway use, the 7400 series will be intended mainly for city travel. The new buses will have 51 seats as opposed to 47 seats in the 7300 series.

The Transit District Employees Credit Union has moved to room 360 in the new Transit headquarters at 425 So. Main Street in Los Angeles.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON—Members of Merwin C. Park's family were on hand to help him celebrate his retirement.

Above, Park poses with his daughter and son, Leslie Merwin Park, who like his dad, is also a bus operator at Division 9. In fact, as of January 1, 1976, Leslie will be assigned the badge number issued to his dad 42 years ago: number 1746.

## Don. C. McMillan, Charter Board Member, Dies

### Served As Director For 10 Years

Donald C. McMillan, former RTD Board president and director, passed away in Pasadena on Sunday, October 26, after a lengthy illness. He was 76.

McMillan, who retired from the board early this year, became a charter member of the RTD board when the District was created in 1964, and during his 10-year tenure, he rendered outstanding service as a member of the board, representing the 5th supervisory district.

McMillan, a native of Denver, Colorado, received a degree in civil engineering from Colorado College in 1922. In 1927 he was named city engineer for Ventura, and in 1943 became the city manager of Alameda, in northern California. In 1948, he became manager of the City of Pasadena, a post he held until his retirement in 1964. His experience in transportation included a position as civil engineer with the Colorado Division of Highways, and with the Barrington and Quincy Railroad Company in Chicago.



Don C. McMillan

McMillan was active in numerous public agencies. His affiliations included membership on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District; past-president of the board of directors of the International City Managers Association; chairman of the Civil Defense and Disaster Board of Los Angeles County and Cities; and the State Civil Defense and Disaster Board.

Vitaly concerned with California's environmental problems, McMillan also served as vice-president of the California State Water Pollution Board and the Shoreline Planning Association.

McMillan is survived by his wife, Mary Emma; one son, Martin, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services for McMillan were held on Wednesday, October 29, in Pasadena.

## Edelman Appoints New Director To RTD Board

Marvin L. Holen was sworn in as a new member of the RTD's Board of Directors, at the L.A. County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, October 14.

Holen, who was appointed to the RTD Board by Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, will serve a three-year term.

He will take the place vacated by A.J. Eyraud, Jr. who is leaving the Board after serving eight years as a director.

"On behalf of the entire District, I would like to welcome Director Holen to our Board," said Byron E. Cook, RTD president. "I'm, sure that his contributions to our agency will prove invaluable."

A partner in the law firm of Van Petten and Holen, Holen holds a law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. He is also a member of the Los Angeles County, State of California and American Bar Associations.

In addition to practicing law, Holen serves as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Active in community affairs, Holen is a member of the Board of Trustees for California Blue Shield and the California Museum Foundation.

Holen and his wife, Marta, reside in Los Angeles.

## Ray Shollin Decides To Retire — After 53 Years

Ray Shollin went to work for the old Los Angeles Railway Company in 1922, and didn't retire until 1975—53 years later.

Shollin, a journeyman patternmaker, says of his long tenure at the District: "I wasn't ready to retire nine years ago when I was only 65. I was too young. But I'm ready now. I think it's about time."

Throughout his career at the District, Shollin worked in one place; South Park Shops. He started as a patternmaker for the old streetcars and later when the streetcars were phased out, he became a mechanic "A". In that capacity, he did all the shopwork for the Transit Building, including making cabinets and shelves, installing panelings, and building drawers and furniture.

During Shollin's last two years, he was the only patternmaker and carpenter at the District, and was responsible for all the woodwork required by the District.

Shollin says of his co-workers at South Park: "They're a bunch of good fellows down there."

Norm Radi, Foreman at South Park Shops, thinks very highly of Shollin, and says the district valued his work.

"He was well liked. He was always on time, and would do anything you asked him to do, because he could do anything you asked him to do. We're going to miss him very much. He did a good job right up to his retirement."

During his career, Shollin saw a lot of history, and, as he put it, "a lot of changes from streetcars to buses." He also observes that things have changed for the working man. "Everything has changed for the better, especially the wages." Shollin remembers that he started working for 59 cents an hour.

Shollin and his wife of 42 years, Peggy, live in a pleasant house on a quiet street in Rosemead. Mrs. Shollin is glad that her husband will be spending more time at home. Not only did he work for 53 years, but he put in a lot of overtime. According to Mrs. Shollin, "They kept asking him to work overtime, and he did."

But now, according to Shollin, "everything is paid off," and their plans include a quiet retirement: watching television, puttering around in the yard, maybe taking a few trips, and generally "just taking it easy."



Peggy and Ray Shollin pose in front of their backyard patio. Now that he is retired, Shollin will have more time to devote to his gardening and to relaxing in his patio.

## DISTRICT FACILITIES TOURED BY LABOR OFFICIALS FROM BANGLADESH

District facilities were recently toured by two distinguished visitors from Bangladesh.

Abdur Rahman, a member of the Parliament in Bangladesh, and president of that country's National Federation of Trade Unions, and Md. Emdad Hossain, Secretary of the Craft Federations, toured the Dispatch Center, talked with radio dispat-

chers and got a chance to meet several bus operators.

The two men, who were in this country on a tour of labor facilities, were impressed by the manner in which RTD's system was run and both men felt that what they had seen will be helpful to them in their activities when they go back to Bangladesh.

## Division 13: Holding Down District Operations in Riverside



THREE DIVISION 13 personnel relax in the trainroom at the Riverside Division. From left are: operator Dale F. Hamilton; operator Walter F. Pflughoft, Jr.; and Jim Witt, the man in charge of Division 13.

RTD's operations cover a sprawling, four-county area requiring a far-flung network of operating divisions. Division 13, in Riverside, is one of those "far flung" divisions. In addition to being the smallest division, it is also the most distant from RTD headquarters.

Situated on a three-acre lot just west of the Riverside Freeway, Division 13 supports RTD's operation in the District's easternmost service area.

Six lines operate out of Division 13: Line 60 connects Riverside with Los Angeles, and Line 59 connects Riverside with Long Beach. Lines 62, 99, 148 and 149 provide local service within Riverside County.

Division 13 was built in 1964. Officially, it is a "terminal division," with Division 9 in El Monte being the "control division." The manager of Division 9 is also manager of Division 13, which is a high seniority division.

### "Home Away From Home"

Fifty-four operators at 13 call the Division their "home away from home." The atmosphere at the division is friendly and relaxed. The division's small size and the camaraderie of the small staff no doubt have much to do with the relaxed atmosphere, as does the pleasant sun-filled trainroom.

There are 14 mechanics on the division's maintenance crew to service a fleet of 34 buses. In charge of both transportation and maintenance is Jim Witt. Witt has been at the Division 20 years and has seen it grow from 18 buses and 30 operators to its present size.

Witt says: "Division 13 is a very close-knit division. There is complete cooperation among all the departments, and we work together.

"It's a good place to be," he adds.



Operator Thomas E. Walls is seen shaking hands with Emdad Hossain, during a visit by the two Bangladesh officials to Division 2. Hossain and Abdur Rahman, third from left, also spoke with operators Jonathan S. Walker, far left, and Thomas L. Bell, far right.

Second from right is Earl Clark, UTU general chairman, who was a host for the men's visit.



At the Dispatch Center, chief radio dispatcher Frank Blumenthal, far right, explains several of the features of the radio console to Abdur Rahman, second from left and Emdad Hossain, second from right. Seated at the console is dispatcher Bill Davis.

# BILL MILLER RETIRES



Division 6 operator William H. Miller retired in September after 25 years with the District and predecessor companies.

Miller came to the L.A.T.L. in 1950 as an operator out of Division 4, and worked at Divisions 11 and 9 before coming to Division 6 in 1967.

At the farewell retirement party held in Miller's honor on his last day at Division 6, manager Gus Lopez presented him with a certificate signed by his friends and co-workers at the Division; a check and best wishes for a happy retirement.



BON VOYAGE—Radio Dispatcher Clarence C. Doak and his wife, Phyllis, enjoy some cake at a retirement party given in Clarence's honor at the Dispatch Center.

Clarence, who started with Pacific Electric in 1946 as a conductor and motorman, became a supervisor of vehicle operations in 1953 and a radio dispatcher in 1968.

The party was given Clarence by his fellow vehicle supervisors and radio dispatchers, who also presented a portable transistor radio and cassette player and carry-on luggage to Clarence who plans to go traveling now that he's retired.

## Moving Up

Name	Div/ Dept.	From/To	Date
Baumgartner, Donald R.	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	9/13/75
Cabrere, Francis X.	3297	Operator To Operator-Extra Instructor of Vehicle Operations	9/8/75
Campbell, Houston J.	3201	Operator-Extra Instructor of Vehicle Operations To Instructor of Vehicle Operations	9/7/75
Chetnakarnkul, Surin	9500	Draftsman I To Draftsman II	9/15/75
Ciatti, Gino	3307	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Curiel, Carlos	3315	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Crowe, Junior Elisha	3308	Mechanic "A" To Mechanic "A" Leadman	9/21/75
Earles, Mary Helen	5000	Information Clerk To Information Clerk Extra Supervisor	9/14/75
Felder, Helen Louise	3305	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Gamino, Juan Pedro	3308	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Gassner, Wilfried	3211	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Disptacher	9/14/75
Glidewell, Roy D.	3218	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	9/11/75
Hamerly, Daryl Jay	3303	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Harris, Alvin	3301	Mechanic "A" To Mechanic "A" Leadman	9/7/75
Harrison, William	3204	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	9/13/75
Holmes, Scott Thomas	5000	Information Clerk Extra Supervisor To Supervisor of Telephone Operations	9/29/75
Holzer, C. J.	4200	Surface Planner To Senior Surface Planner	9/15/75
Huffer, Raymond G.	7300	Service Director To Timetables Stock Clerk	9/14/75
Johnson, Charles A.	3218	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	9/11/75
Johnson, Laurence L.	3212	Div. Dispatcher To Div. Dispatcher Extra Asst. Div. Trans. Manager	9/28/75
Johnson, Purvis	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	9/15/75
Keen, Karl Douglas	3302	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	9/7/75
Little, Fannie M.	3302	Operator To Utility "A"	9/21/75
Loftus, Patricia G.	7300	Temporary Ticket Clerk To Typist Clerk	9/14/75
Mahoney, Paul J.	3207	Div. Dispatcher Extra Asst. Div. Transportation Mgr. To Asst. Division Trans. Manager	9/28/75
Marks, Callier Sandy	5000	Information Clerk Extra Supervisor To Supervisor of Telephone Operations	9/29/75
Mays, Rose Marie	5000	Information Clerk Extra Supervisor To Supervisor of Telephone Operations	9/29/75
Mueller, Karl H.	3207	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	9/15/75
Murrello, Albert J.	3316	Ticket Clerk To Service Director	9/14/75
O'Neil, Robert Leslie	3308	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Quezada, Salvador	3315	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Quintero, Joe	3302	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	9/21/75
Parker, Marvin E.	9100	Records Clerk To Community Rep. I	9/15/75
Peck, Mary P.	9500	Secretary II To Secretary III	9/19/75
Smith, James E.	3218	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	9/12/75
Soberanis, Julio Cesar	3314	Mechanic "C" To Mechanic "B"	9/21/75

Name	Div/ Dept.	From/To	Date
Storey, Jack E.	3208	Division Dispatcher To Division Dispatcher Extra Asst. Div. Transportation Mgr.	9/28/75
Tagler, Angelo Jack	3314	Mechanic "B" To Sheet Metal Worker	9/12/75
Tirado, Antonio	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	9/14/75
Underwood, Walter R.	3212	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	9/12/75
Vannell III, Harry	3315	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A" Leadman	9/7/75
Vergara, Johnny	3318	Mechanic "C" To Mechanic "B"	9/7/75
Williams, Peter	3306	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	9/14/75
Woods, Gerald D.	3299	Div. Dispatcher Extra Asst. Div. Trans. Manager To Relief Asst. Div. Trans. Manager	9/28/75

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Date
Auger, Charles Edward	9500	Draftsman II	4/28/58 - 9/3/75
Bridgman, William Calvin	3202	Operator	8/11/45 - 10/7/75
Brown, Noble Loftus	6201	Former Operator Trans. to Ind. Leave 1/29/75	12/29/49 - 10/1/75
Castro, Jose Rodriguez	3314	Mechanic "A"	4/2/34 - 10/3/75
Christianson, Stanley A.	6201	Former Operator Trans. to Ind. Leave 4/22/75	10/13/39 - 10/3/75
Eamigh, Homer Gordon	6201	Former Operator Trans. to Ind. Leave 12/27/75	7/15/47 - 9/27/75
Giles, Oscar W.	3314	Mechanic "A"	3/7/41 - 9/10/75
Gudbranson, Gunvald E.	3210	Operator	9/4/45 - 9/16/75
Harris, Julius	3305	Mopper Waxer	8/15/46 - 10/7/75
Jennings, Elmer M.	3212	Operator	7/19/45 - 9/18/75
Larrabee, John M.	7300	Supervising Clerk	9/17/46 - 9/18/75
Lujan, Raul	3314	Mechanic "A"	3/22/43 - 9/23/75
Meade, Calvert McCabe	3208	Assistant Division Transportation Manager	8/29/39 - 9/26/75
Miller, William Henry	3206	Operator	11/6/50 - 9/19/75
Nash, James Monroe	3314	Sheet Metal Worker	9/9/41 - 9/11/75
Park, Merwin Clement	3209	Operator	9/27/33 - 9/13/75
Shollin, Raymond	3314	Cabinet Maker	7/24/22 - 9/30/75
Wargo, Peter James	3203	Operator	9/18/52 - 9/22/75

## Retired

## In Memoriam

Name	Classification	Date
Bolton, Basil	Former Ticket Clerk 3216 (Ret.)	9/19/75
Clark, Charles J.	Former Operator 3205 (Ret.)	9/9/75
Lendy, Jacob H.	Former Foreman I 3301 (Ret.)	9/26/75
Lowe, Dan F.	Former Mechanic "A" 3308 (Ret.)	9/7/75
Murrello, Albert James	Service Director 3216	9/20/75
Rogers, Nora F.	Former Utility "B" 3305 (Ret.)	9/25/75
Williams, Lloyd	Operator 3205	9/18/75

### Have A Problem? Want To Make A Suggestion? Call The Employee Hotline

The employee hotline, established in 1972, is still very much in operation.

By dialing 749-6977, and asking for extension 310, employees can leave taped messages making suggestions, asking questions or stating problems.

According to Byron Lewis, Director of Personnel, the hotline was established to provide a direct line of communication from any employee in the District to management to solve problems and an-

swer employee questions that cannot be handled through normal channels. Every attempt will be made to respond to all calls immediately.

Messages can be left anonymously. However, Lewis points out that unless employees leave their names, they cannot be contacted to receive a response.

All messages are treated in strictest confidence. The hotline is open 24 hours a day.

### Did You Know

- The average RTD bus is driven 45,000 miles per year.
- The average coach uses 9,600 gallons of diesel fuel annually. It would take a railroad train of tank cars 8½ miles long to haul the diesel fuel the RTD bus fleet burns in one year.
- The average RTD bus operator drives 26,000 miles per year. An operator, retiring after 30 years of service, will have driven approximately 780,000 miles.
- RTD operates 92,226,000 regular schedule miles yearly. That's enough miles in a year to go to the moon and back 184 times.
- The District has 28,000 bus stop signs.
- There is a bus stop for approximately every quarter mile of bus route.

## Dave Kautter's Retirement Makes "News"

Division 10 operator Dave Kautter made quite a media splash recently when he retired after 30 years of service with the District.

On his last day on Line 43, Kautter was interviewed by both "Eyewitness News" on Channel 7, and by the Eagle Rock Sentinel.

In his television interview, Kautter said: "I hate to leave. I've got so many good friends among my passengers." He added, "I'll miss all of the nice people who ride my bus."

Kautter's passengers also think he's quite nice. The **Sentinel**, which ran a picture of Kautter on his bus, noted that Kautter, who "treats all of his passengers to a friendly smile, was given remembrances at every stop from his grateful friends."

## Making Headway

Jack Brown, Division 8 operator, and wife, Deborah, have a new member in their family, Francine Lynese, who was born on October 2, weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces. That makes two girls for the Browns. Their other daughter, Jessica, is 2½ years old.



**ROSES FOR RUTH**—Ruth Kelley, senior matron, poses with one dozen red roses, a gift from her husband Harold Kelley, assistant building engineer, at her surprise birthday party held at Transit headquarters.

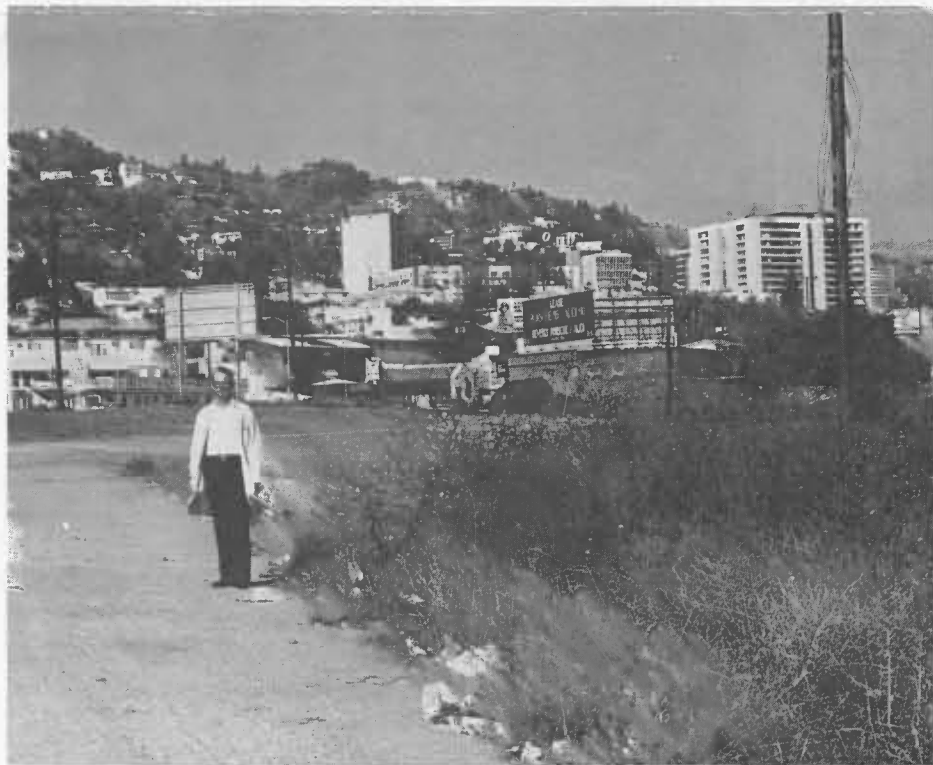
Mrs. Kelley, who for the past ten years has been in charge of seeing that the 7th floor employees lounge runs smoothly, joined the District 15 years ago as a janitress, and became senior matron in 1969. Mrs. Kelley is also responsible for seeing that coffee is provided for all RTD functions and meetings.

Mrs. Kelley's many friends at the District celebrated her birthday with punch and cake. According to Anita Allen, general services manager, the party was given "to show our appreciation for all the nice things Mrs. Kelley has done for us."

Division 12 operator Thomas A. Weihert and his wife, Lenee, became the proud parents of their first child, a son, Jeffrey Thomas Weihert, who was born on August 3 and weighed in at nine pounds, two ounces.

Division 7 operator William Boddy joined the ranks of married men at the District when he wed the former Linda Carol Hampton on Saturday, September 13, in an afternoon garden ceremony at the Baha' Center in West Hollywood.

Boddy, who is on the extra board at Division 7, has been an RTD operator since 1971. The newlyweds will reside on N. Sweetzer Ave. in West Hollywood.



**IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH NOW**, but the spot where Rollin Johnston, maintenance manager at Division 7 is standing, is the site of what will be the new Division 7.

The new facility will be located on Santa Monica Boulevard (pictured in the background) and San Vicente in West Hollywood, adjacent to the site of the present Division 7 facility.

Construction of the \$5.56 million facility is expected to start early next year after the bid is awarded.



**SURPRISE!**—Donna Hockenbury (under the hat), administrative assistant in the Marketing and Communications Dept., gets surprised with a party on her birthday. Donna, who came to the District in 1966 as a telephone information operator, was also an interviewer before becoming an administrative assistant.

With Donna is Eileen Halpin, marketing secretary. Seated at far left is Larry Plotin, assistant writer. In the background is Jackline Matosian (with glasses) manager of market research and Gloria Rivas, community relations secretary.

## HEADWAY

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