



# HEAD



# WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 3 Number 3 February 20, 1976

## New RTD Board Member Appointed

Ruth E. Richter has been appointed by L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley to serve as a director of the SCRTD. She will take the seat vacated by Victor M. Carter who recently resigned.

Mrs. Richter, who lives in the San Fernando Valley, is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Rapid Transit; the Mayor's San Fernando Valley Transportation Advisory Committee and a member of the L.A. City/County Consolidation Committee to which she was appointed by the Mayor last year.

In addition, Mrs. Richter has been an active member of many San Fernando Valley business and civic organizations, including the Citizens Advisory Committee on Rapid Transit; Associated Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley, of which she is the current and first woman president; and the Valley Round Table Council. She is an ex-officio member of the Industrial Association of San Fernando Valley and, as a registered real estate broker, is a member of the San Fernando Valley Board of Realty. She is also secretary of the Fernando Award.

Mrs. Richter lives in Winnetka.

### William Hawkins, Asst. Division 3 Transportation Manager, Dies

William S. Hawkins, asst. transportation manager of Division 3, passed away on Wednesday morning, January 28, at his home at the age of 55.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Bill joined Pacific Electric in 1944 as an assistant service clerk and from 1956 to 1959 he served in various capacities as a relief and assistant service director. In 1959 he became a division clerk and worked at Divisions 12, 4 and 11. In 1973, he was made relief asst. division manager and the following year became assistant transportation manager of Division 3.

Bill is survived by his wife, Delores, who resides in Garden Grove, two sons and a daughter. Funeral services were held at St. Hedwig's Church in Los Alamitos.

### Employee Parking Expanded At Division 5

Employee parking at Division 5 was recently expanded with the addition of more than 40 new parking spaces.

The expansion was made possible by the District's purchase of a parcel of vacant land at Van Ness and 54th Streets, adjacent to the Division. The site is being graded and blacktopped and when completed, will be marked for more than 40 parking spaces.

The purchase of the additional land is the first step in a planned expansion of the transportation facilities at Division 5. When the Division expansion is complete, there will be a new transportation building including adequate parking for Division 5 employees.

Involved in the expansion are 12 other parcels of land which are currently in the process of being purchased.



Ruth E. Richter, Winnetka realtor and civic leader (right) takes oath-of-office administered by Helen Bolen, assistant District board secretary. Mrs. Richter has been a long-time advocate of improved public transportation and was a charter member of the Mayor's San Fernando Valley Transportation Advisory Committee. She is the second woman to hold a seat on the transit board.

## Employee Recreation Program News

Several weeks ago, every employee in the District received a letter and questionnaire announcing the District's plans to develop an employees' recreation program for all employees. The questionnaires were provided to determine which activities RTD employees were most interested in. As you know, the program is designed to encourage participation in sports, crafts, art and numerous other activities with special emphasis on inter-division competition. Each activity with the exception of special events and activities involving the sale of tickets, will be organized and managed by the employees themselves under the direct supervision of the Program Administrator with promotional and advertising assistance provided by the District through the office of the Program Administrator.

The Advisory Council will be selected from the names of employees who have indicated on their questionnaire a desire to serve in this capacity. The Advisory Council will include representatives from all divisions and the headquarters building.

Funding for the program will be derived from commissions from concessionaires. The amount of funding for each activity will vary depending on the amount of participation, equipment required, association dues, trophies, etc. and will be allocated by the Program Administrator and advisory council.

A number of activities have already been tentatively scheduled including the dominos tournament, two golf tournaments, RTD day at Dodger Stadium. Details of these and other activities will be announced in Headway well in advance of the scheduled event.

The Employee Recreation Program is your program and its success will depend largely on how involved you get. Many of the activities checked on the questionnaires have already been organized at some of the Divisions and the goal of the Employee Recreation Program is to encourage other work locations to organize teams and enter into Districtwide competition.

Watch each issue of Headway for the latest recreation news.

### DISTRICT UPDATE

## General Manager's Report To The RTD Board

Note: The following excerpts are taken from a report presented by RTD General Manager, Jack R. Gilstrap, to the RTD Board of Directors on January 29, recapping District accomplishments and achievements during 1975.

"I think it is important to take a look at what the District has accomplished during the past year because our achievements are significant. In 1975, we added 64 new lines; 500 new one-way route miles; increased the fleet by 374 buses and in general, made a 30% improvement in service throughout our extensive operating area. We have initiated new transit services and improved upon some existing ones. This combination of careful planning and staged service improvements is reflected in a passenger growth of more than 40% in less than two years. This is one of the greatest increases in transit usage of any system in the United States, even surpassing our record increase in 1974.

Our most successful new programs include the San Fernando Valley and South Central Los Angeles Grid systems, with the number of riders in both Grids increasing at a rate more than three times that of the District-wide average between May and

September. Ridership is also continuing to increase on our now famous El Monte Busway system since completion of the California State University Station. Ridership at RTD Park 'n' Ride facilities, including the six new ones implemented this year, is also on the increase. Ridership on the six new lines shows an increase of 58% since implementation, with some lines filling 85% of the available seats. The success of the Minibus in downtown Los Angeles has resulted in an expanded 2-loop system, with new weekend service in Westwood.

In order to maintain the portions of our fleet responsible for the two Grid systems, Division 15 in the San Fernando Valley and Division 18 in South Central Los Angeles were opened this year. A completely new facility at Division 9 was also completed this year to service the heavy bus traffic plying the El Monte Busway.

The District also has not been idle in areas of concern to the elderly and handicapped. The monthly pass qualifying age for male senior citizens was lowered from 65 to 62, making it consistent with the qualifying age for females, which was already 62.

To the more than 130 teams entered in the District Dominos Tournament - GOOD LUCK, and may the best team win!

We have a three-zone system in Los Angeles County, which means that a ride between any two zones still costs only a quarter. A rider pays an additional quarter if he crosses into a third zone. Because most of our riders make relatively short trips, this has amounted to no increase in fare for about 75% of our patrons."

# New Improved Bus System For East Los Angeles



The inauguration of the East Los Angeles Grid service on Monday, January 26, was marked by Mariachi music and the Ballet Folklorico.

After the festivities, which were held in Belvedere Park, RTD General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap, far left, and supervisor Ed Edelman, standing fourth from the right, posed with the Folklorico dancers.

A new public transportation system was placed at the service of the East L.A. residents on Sunday, January 25, when the East Los Angeles Grid went into implementation providing new, improved service for the residents of East Los Angeles.

Three new lines in east Los Angeles and 14 others were rerouted to form a comprehensive transit improvement system of bus lines similar to systems now successfully operating in South Central Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. Twenty-five buses will be added in East Los Angeles.

"The East Los Angeles bus im-

provement system will make riding simpler, faster and more convenient, as has been the case with RTD's other Grid systems in South Central Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley," said Byron E. Cook, RTD president. "We are most grateful to the residents of East Los Angeles for their positive response and for their cooperation which was instrumental in implementing this new bus system."

The East Los Angeles Transit Improvement Program will provide the following services:

- Most residents will live no more than one-quarter mile from a bus stop.



- During the day, all buses will run no more than 20 minutes apart (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Peak hour service will be even more frequent on some routes.
- It will be possible to travel almost anywhere in East Los Angeles with no more than one transfer.

Grid service will operate every 20 minutes from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. and every 60 minutes from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. although a few lines will run more frequently. On Sundays and holidays—every 20 minutes from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and every 60 minutes from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The new East Los Angeles Grid bus lines will operate on major thoroughfares in the area—including east-west routes on Valley Boulevard, Garvey Avenue, Floral Drive,

Brooklyn Avenue, First Street, Fourth Street, Whittier Boulevard, Olympic Boulevard and Washington Boulevard and north-south routes on Soto Street, Euclid Avenue, Lorena Street, Indiana Street, Eastern Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard and Garfield Avenue.

Of the three new lines, two will enable passengers to make connections with the two El Monte Busway Stations. Line 14, which begins at Boyle and Olympic comes to the end of the line at the USC/County Medical Center station. Line 16 begins at Atlantic and Telegraph in the City of Commerce and terminates at the Cal State Busway Station. Line 15 will start at the Doctor's Hospital at Herbert Street and will terminate at Brooklyn and Forest in Boyle Heights.

## Good-By To 1060

Many District employees left the old Transit building at 1060 So. Broadway with mixed feelings, including fondness and nostalgia for what was to many of RTD's hard-working and long-distance commuting employees "home away from home."

But for several employees, moving to the new Transit building means leaving the familiar place and office where they had worked more than 25 years, ever since they came to the District.

Rose admitted to being nostalgic about leaving the old building, and jokingly relates that she even wanted to hold a mock "wake" on moving day. "I did get attached to the building after all those years," she said.

William Taylor, the District's paymaster, also felt a little sad about leaving the old building. Taylor, who started in 1947 as a teller clerk, said, "I admit I did become fond of the old place. After 28 years of going to the same place, you get used to it." He goes on to explain: "In addition to my friends at the District, I also had a lot of friends at the Herald-Examiner across the street, and I liked to be able to meet them for lunch."



Rose Showers

Rose Showers, Personnel Department office manager, for example, came to work for the District as a typist clerk in 1947, and for all those years, through all the changes of titles and ownership that the District underwent, she worked in the same office on the sixth floor.



William Taylor

But Dorothy Langlois, employment interviewer, said that she "didn't feel a thing about moving." Dorothy, who started in 1946 as a typist, said, "It didn't affect me at all. I have no sentiments about leaving the old building. We have much better quarters in the new building, including air conditioning."



Dorothy Langlois

Richard Kissick, Board secretary, is also another long-time employee who seems not to be affected by the move.

"Dick" as he is commonly known around the District, is perhaps the longest headquarters employee. He started as a clerk in the claims division in 1938 and except for a three-month stint at another department and a four-year hitch in the Coast Guard during World War II, Dick spent all his years at the District on the 10th floor of the old building.

"The move didn't bother me at all," he says. "I have a much nicer office here, and I'm looking forward to our new Board room which will be much better and more adequate than the old one once it's completed. I'm not sentimental in that respect."

## HELP! Genius Wanted

Somewhere in the vast organization of ours, there must be someone who can create a cartoon strip for Headway. That person must have talent, desire, drive and a willingness to work for the fun of it.

Anyone interested in fame and prestige as a cartoonist, please write Bill Weimer, 6th Floor, 425 So. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.



THE LADY IS A HAM—

Division 8 operator Stella Green recently received her amateur radio license and her own call letters: WB6GWO.

Stella has been a ham for about one year and started her hobby at the suggestion of another Division 8 operator, Robert Arkow, a long-time ham radio enthusiast.

Stella, who lives in Van Nuys, says that being a "ham" is "a nice way to meet people."



## Photo Contest Judges Announced

Two top photographers will be among the contest judges for RTD's first photo contest.

Richard Oliver, chief photographer for the Los Angeles **Times** and John Duricka, president of the Greater Los Angeles Press Photographer's Association and a photographer for the San Gabriel **Tribune**, have agreed to help judge the entries.

Because the subject of the photo contest is the RTD, the third judge will be John Curtis, who retired from the District as Manager of Rapid Transit and Surface Planning. Curtis is a well-known District figure and amateur shutterbug.

Remember, the photo contest doesn't close until March 1, so interested employees have plenty of time to enter. Here are the rules.

### Rules

1. All pictures must be black and white prints. No slides or negatives will be accepted. Pictures may be any size from 3" x 4" to 8" x 10".
2. Your name, badge, department or location must be clearly marked on all prints submitted.
3. Pictures must be mailed to Headway Editor no later than March 1, 1976.
4. All pictures become property of RTD and cannot be returned to the sender.
5. Pictures will be judged on originality, subject matter and clarity.
6. The subjects of the photos must pertain to the activity and work of the District: (People, buildings, equipment, buses, etc.)
7. Enter as many pictures as you like, but only one prize will be awarded to any one employee.
8. Send all pictures to Headway Editor, 6th floor, 425 So. Main, Los Angeles, California 90013.
9. Decision of the judges is final.
10. Winners will be announced in a March 1976 issue of Headway.

First prize is \$50, second prize is \$25, and the third prize is \$15. There are also 20 fourth place prizes of \$5 each.

This is your opportunity to make that camera work for you and to have a lot of fun doing it. Good luck!

## DID YOU KNOW —

RTD operated 91,670,394 in-service passenger miles in 1975, an increase of 56.8% over 1974.

### BUT

- Traffic accidents per million passenger miles in 1975 decreased by 3.5% over, 1974, and
  - Passenger accidents decreased 1.4%
- Total man hours put in at the District rose by 52.6% in 1975 over 1974 for a total of 14,905,968.

### BUT

- Employee accident frequency rate among all employees was down .73%, and
- The severity rate was down 24.9%

## Operations Corner

From George W. Heinle  
Manager of Operations

The other day as I was leaving the plane after a commercial airline flight, the pilot opened the door from his cabin and stood by the plane's exit. As each passenger left, he greeted them with, "Thank you for flying TWA." While I might have expected this from one of the flight attendants, here was a man who had just finished an arduous flight capped off by a landing on an icy snow covered runway, taking the time to say, "THANK YOU."

Many of the passengers commented on his action and all left with a spirit of goodwill toward the pilot and the airline. Furthermore, I am sure that, like myself, those who might have a choice of airlines on future flights would choose TWA because of the pilot's actions. This man's action, thus, contributed to his own job security since the more people that fly TWA, the more certain he is to continue to be employed. Also, the more flights scheduled, the more likely he will be able to bid better flights.

It occurred to me that we in the RTD have a very similar situation. We have recently expanded our operations, with the financial help of the County of Los Angeles, so that 41.36% of our 4,168 bus operators are relatively new employees,

having been hired within the last two years. Furthermore, thousands of new riders are now using the RTD. On the other hand, we cannot expect continued financial support for routes and service that are not well patronized. So that we really should say "THANK YOU" to all those passengers, both old and new who make all of our jobs possible. Think of the ground swell of support we would have in the community if all 4,168 bus operators would say, "THANK YOU for riding the RTD," whenever the opportunity presented itself. "Thank you for leaving your car at home and taking the bus. Thank you for helping us in our efforts to relieve congestion on our streets and freeways. Thank you for helping to conserve fuel. Thank you for your support in enabling RTD to provide this service."

These are truly magic words when all this can be accomplished simply by saying, "THANK YOU for riding the RTD". I, for one, am going to start saying "Thank You" to our passengers when I ride the bus. Won't you join me?

George W. Heinle

### Don't Forget!

The Transit District Employees Federal Credit Union is now located on the third floor of the new Transit Building at 425 So. Main, Los Angeles 90013. The phone number is 972-6183, or 629-4963.

# Think Safety!

## Moving Up

Name	Div/ Dept.	From/To	Date
Benjamin, Moses	3314	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	1/25/76
Boles, John H.	3209	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/24/76
Caceres, Armando C.	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/26/76
Davis, Jesse R.	3296	Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations To Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/25/76
Johnson, Willie L.	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Instructor of Vehicle Operations	1/25/76
Kelso, Richard W.	3900	Senior Special Agent To Chief Special Agent	1/12/76
Lisenby, Robert E.	3209	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/23/76
Marin, Roberto	3210	Operator To Operator-Extra Instructor of Vehicle Operations	1/26/76
Martinez, Alexander	3296	Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations To Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/25/76
Maye, Walter E.	3296	Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations To Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/25/76
Steward, James E.	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/25/76
Stringer, Pal W.	3212	Operator To Operator-Extra Supervisor of Vehicle Operations	1/22/76
Young, William O.	3900	Spec. Agent-Relief Sr. Spec. Agent To Senior Special Agent	1/12/76

## Retired

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Litzinger, Walter Carl	3210	Operator	12/1/33	1/18/76
Potter, Alma L.	7200	Data Processor Operator	10/19/42	1/30/76

## In Memoriam

Name	Classification	Deceased
Beard, Dock	Utility "B" 3301 (Ret)	12/26/75
Culp, Perry L.	Former Trafficman 3221 (Ret)	1/15/76
Hawkins, William S.	Assistant Division Transportation Manager 3203	1/28/76



### PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE—

Billie Orth, Secretary to Manager of Operations George W. Heinle, tries to carry on as usual despite the distracting remodeling work going on in the executive staff offices on the 6th floor of the new Transit Headquarters at 425 So. Main in Los Angeles.

### Getting Married? Having An Anniversary? A New Arrival in the Family?

Let Headway know what's happening with you and your family  
It doesn't take a formal letter—  
just a short note stating the facts:

- Who • Work Location • When • What • Where

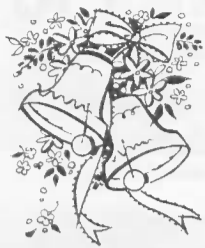
Jot down the information and anything else you would like to add and then send your news to:

### Headway

6th Floor, 425 South Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

REMEMBER, Headway is your paper!

## Wedding Bells



Information operator Teresa Jimenez exchanged wedding vows with Arturo Quijas on January 31 in an afternoon ceremony in Los Angeles.

Teresa and her husband will make their home in Highland Park.

Information operator Mae Boyd became Mrs. Joe Grosz in a wedding ceremony on December 20 in Montebello.

Information operator Irene Almaraz was Mae's matron of honor and her husband, George, was best man.

## Happy Anniversary



Phillip Fleishman, mechanic "B" at Division 8, and his wife, Ruth, will celebrate their 24th wedding anniversary on February 28.

The Fleischmans, who reside in West Los Angeles, have two sons.

Retired Division 5 operator E. K. Stahl, and his wife, Marie, observed their 52nd wedding anniversary on January 6.

Stahl, who retired in 1967 after 40 years of service with the District and its predecessor agencies, now resides in Saugus and sends his "best regards to my old friends at the RTD."

Doris Darby, secretary II in the Safety Department, and her husband, known to friends as "Darby", celebrated 10 years of marriage on February 14, Valentine's Day. The Darbys, who live in West Hollywood, really took Cupid seriously!

Division 6 operator Michael J. White and his wife, Gail, marked one blissful year of marriage with their first wedding anniversary on February 19. They reside in Los Angeles.



Doris Darby, (third from left) secretary II in the Safety Department, was given a surprise party on her birthday by her friends and co-workers in the Safety and Labor Relations Departments.

From left are: Irene O'Regan, secretary in labor relations; John Brewer, safety supervisor; Doris; Art Rahmani, labor relations associate; Eileen Halpin, secretary in Marketing and Communications; Bryan Stokes, administrator for labor relations; and Don Cornish, labor relations associate.

## New Arrivals



Information operator Eddie Lopez is the proud father of a brand new baby boy, (and first child), Randy Michael Lopez, who was born on January 20, weighing 7 lbs., 13 ozs. Eddie and his wife, Jo Ann, live in San Gabriel.

Division 18 operator Robert Voss and his wife, Gale, announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Rakesha Lynet, who was born on November 20 and weighed in at 10 lbs., 13 ozs. Rakesha and her parents live in Carson.

Division 8 operator Michael Kochanski, and his wife, Cathy, became the parents of their second son, Marc Alan, who arrived on December 30 and weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. That makes a brother for Michael Bruce, II, 3½ years old. The Kochanski family resides in San Fernando.

Division 2 operator Tyrone Bernard, and wife, Sandra, are pleased to announce the birth of a baby girl, Kiyona Latrice, who was born on December 19 and weighed 5 lbs., 8½ ozs.

The Bernards reside in Los Angeles.

Division 3 operator Robert F. Arenas and Division 1 operator Frank V. Delgado announce the birth of Gabriel Alonzo Arenas, who is Robert's son and Frank's grandchild. Gabriel was born October 6 and weighed 6 lbs., 6 ozs.

That makes three sons for Robert and his wife, Liz, who live in Los Angeles.

## Operator Ward Has A 'Beauty' In His Family

After the article on Division 8 operator Robert Serago's daughter, Deanna, appeared, Headway discovered that Division 8 operator Gene Ward also has a beauty pageant winner in his family. His 11-year old daughter, Lisa Lynn, was the 1972 "Little Miss California" for the La Petite Division. Since then she has won several



Lisa Lynn Ward, the 1972 Little Miss California, La Petite Division.

other titles, but is most proud of being Little Miss California.

Lisa has done television commercials (for Purina Cat Chow, Kleenex, Spaghetti-o's); acted in two documentaries; danced with the New York City Ballet when they appeared in Los Angeles' Greek Theatre; and has made numerous guest appearances at benefits and parades, as part of the Little Miss California Pageant.

Lisa, who attends Calvary Luthern School, started taking ballet and tap lessons when she was 2 and at the age of 4 began the piano. Later, she picked up the flute and the violin on her own and plans to take singing lessons in a few more years. She is also studying German and taking drama lessons. Lisa, however, wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up, but also plans to keep up her "show biz" career. No doubt with her talent and energy she'll be able to do both!



Information operator Randy Stambaugh, (with the white collar), was given a baby shower by her friends in the telephone information department. The shower included cake, punch and presents.

Among those who attended the shower were Randy's 3½ year old son, Michael, and her fellow information operators, from left: Chantell Repps, with her niece, Nicole; Sam Boldra; Karen Maxwell; Mae Grosz and Chantell's mom, Mrs. Eva Repps.

The flowers were a present from Sara Romero, secretary III in Customer Relations and Jean Betty Johnston, asst. chief telephone operator.

## HEADWAY

Volume 3 Number 3  
Published by and for the employees of the Southern California Rapid Transit District. Send stories, photos, or just the facts to Daria Schlega, HEADWAY, 6th Floor, 425 So. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

Southern California Rapid Transit District  
425 So. Main Street, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013

U.S. POSTAGE  
paid  
FIRST CLASS  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Permit No. 32705