



# HEADWAY



Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 4, Number 2, February, 1977

## Gerald B. Leonard Appointed to RTD Board

Gerald B. Leonard, a professional planner with extensive experience in designing and analyzing public transportation, has been appointed to the 11-member RTD Board of Directors by County Supervisor Baxter Ward. Leonard takes the seat previously held by Ward himself.

Leonard worked closely with Ward to develop the Sunset Coast Line Proposal which appeared on last year's primary ballot as Propositions R and T. He developed technical information for the plan, including engineering data, cost information and equipment specifications.

Prior to his position with the County, Leonard was a senior transportation planner with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). In addition to overseeing the work of staff and consultants for SCAG transportation plans, he contributed to several studies and analyses of public transportation projects mandated by state and federal laws.

Before coming to Southern California, Leonard worked in a planning capacity for the Chicago Area Transportation Study, planning activities directly for Illinois Governor Richard Ogilvie. Leonard has also worked in transit planning with public



agencies in Dayton and Akron, Ohio.

Leonard, a native of Chicago, is a graduate of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and has completed work on a master's degree at Kent State University in Ohio. He has been a guest lecturer on transportation topics at UCLA, Cal State Long Beach and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Leonard and his wife reside in San Gabriel with their two children.

## Divisions 3-10, 6 Win Third Quarter Safe Performance Awards

The Third Quarter Safe Performance Awards for transportation and maintenance at the District were presented at a recent RTD Board meeting. Division 3-10 was the transportation winner for operating more than 1,880,000 miles with a 64.7 per cent reduction in traffic and passenger accidents.

15,000 man hours without a single lost time industrial or vehicle accident during the third quarter of 1976. Division 3-10 was the transportation winner for operating more than 1,880,000 miles with a 64.7 per cent reduction in traffic and passenger accidents.



The Third Quarter Safe Performance awards were presented to the winning divisions by RTD President Byron E. Cook at a recent board meeting. Accepting the maintenance award, which went to Division 6, was that Division's maintenance manager, A. C. Howard, while Division 3-10 manager Ed L. Edmonson accepted the transportation award won by his division. Both men also received congratulations on behalf of their employees "for contributing to the safety of the District's employees and to the citizens in the District's service area."

The perpetual trophies the men are holding will be displayed at their divisions for the next quarter.

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## Mechanics' Training Program Graduates Six More

The first graduates of RTD's Fifth Mechanic Training Program were presented with certificates of merit in a graduation ceremony at Headquarters and received congratulations from RTD's top staff.

The men were the most recent graduates of the program which is designed to train Utility "A", "B" and service attendants for entry level Mechanic "C" maintenance positions at the District.

The men attend the training program on their off-duty hours while working full time at the District. The training program begins with a classroom portion consisting of 44 class meetings, two times a week. The classes are taught by Earl Morey, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor. Successful completion of the clas-

sroom portion is followed by 16 weeks of full time on-the-job training during which the trainees are paid Mechanic "C" rates while working with qualified mechanics.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must have a good work and attendance record and must pass a test on their ability to perform simple arithmetic problems and their knowledge of decimals and fractions. Applicants should submit a letter in their own handwriting to the Director of Personnel. The application should be addressed to the Personnel Department, Mechanic Training Program, 425 South Main Street, L.A., CA 90013, and should state full name, badge number, current work location, educational background and work experience other than with the District.



The most recent graduates of the RTD Mechanical Training Program look pleased after receiving their certificates and learning that the next Sunday they would all be starting in Mechanic "C" positions.

In the front row, from left to right: Wijnand A. Schardjin; Lorenzo Ontiveros; Richard G. Besette; Clyde Scoggins; Michael Staley; and John Deck.

With the graduates are, from left to right: Jack R. Gilstrap, General Manager; Earl Morey; John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations; Earl Zwiebel, Asst. to Gen'l Superintendent, Maintenance & Equipment; George Heinle, Manager of Operations; and George Powell, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment.



**GREEN LIGHT** — The RTD Board of Directors and the executive staff met with the Los Angeles Traffic Commission recently to discuss how both the RTD and the City of Los Angeles can work more closely with each other.

In the photo above, Richard Gallagher, manager of rapid transit commuter rail, explains the District's rapid transit starter line proposal to, clockwise from left, upper row: RTD Director Thomas Neusom; L. A. traffic commissioners William D. Feldman, Irving Terry and Herbert Solomon; RTD Directors Marvin Holen and Charles Storing. Also representing the city of Los Angeles, but not pictured, was Los Angeles city engineer Sam Taylor, who made an informal presentation about his department's work.

Seated at table in the middle are, left to right: RTD General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap; George Heinle, Manager of Operations; and George McDonald, Manager of Advance Planning and Marketing.

## Line Instructors — An Elite Group Helping Other Operators

RTD's line instructors, who are responsible for qualifying the new operators on the District's routes, are now sporting new yellow and black patches above their uniform badges identifying them as the top 15-20 per cent of the operators in their division.

To be a line instructor, an operator must have an outstanding performance and safety record and a good work record. The instruction department forwards names of prospective candidates to the division manager who asks the operator to become a line instructor.

Currently, all the District's line instructors are undergoing a special program designed to expand their role and responsibility for training the District's operators and helping to qualify them on the routes. The program, a three-day intensive training session, will enable them to do their job even more effectively.

The first day starts with a refresher course including a quick run through on the operator training course at the L.A.

river bed for an informal reevaluation with an instructor's help. Also included is a review of the fare structures and transfers.

The second day focuses on passenger relations. Through role playing and listening to tapes simulating driver-passenger disputes, the operators discuss how to best handle the situations. Public relations and courtesy are also studied, as is the classroom portion of the defensive driving course.

On the third and final day, the emphasis is on bus operation on the street, stressing safety and avoidance of accident-prone situations. Drivers go out on the road for the second part of the defensive driving course. They go through all regular bus operations procedures including making turns, pulling in and out of bus stops and making observations at intersections. The training session ends with a discussion back at the Instruction Department located at the old Gas Company Building in El Monte.

## Profiles to Two Young Line Instructors



Division 12 operator William R. Kreski became a line instructor in less than a year after starting to work as an operator for the District in September of 1975.

As an operator, Kreski believes in safety at all times and that "courtesy is paramount. Also important is to maintain a schedule, to get people to where they're going, and to make the ride as smooth as possible by being extra courteous to senior citizens and using a lot of consideration." He adds, "senior citizens as passengers are a good training ground."

Division 12 instructor Glendon Fowler says of Kreski: "He's a very efficient operator who is polite in handling passengers. His safety and operating records are excellent and he is very easy to work with, but most importantly, he handles the new operators very well and they feel comfortable with him and they get more out of his teaching."

Kreski says he was surprised when he was made a line instructor, but "I enjoy teaching and communicating and people have told me that I had the skills to expand." He sees his job as helping to refine and sharpen the skills of new operators and add to their basics.

As a line instructor, Kreski says he offers little tips on various traffic situations, weather conditions, how to handle terrains — all conditions that can't be duplicated in a training session.

Kreski adds: "It takes time to be a good operator and operators shouldn't be afraid to ask questions, pay close attention to

hints and have patience with themselves and their passengers."

Kreski who was born in New York City, holds a college degree in political science from Cal State Dominguez. He and his wife, Laurel, reside in San Pedro. His hobbies include photography and physical fitness pursuits such as jogging and sprinting.



Division 1-11 Operator Curtis Williams, shown above with manager George Marsala, is another young line instructor. He started at the District in November of 1973, and is proud of his record as an operator which he works at keeping a good one.

Williams believes in "learning things and improving." He adds: "I like people and enjoy meeting them."

Williams sees "public relations as a part of my job." He drives the interurban Lines 801, 800 and 802 as well as the Line 92. When driving an interurban line, he makes it a point to give a small talk explaining the RTD system to out-of-town visitors. Says Curtis, "The bus and the operator are their only experiences with the company. I try to give them the information they need, explain the schedules and transfers and point out the local and express buses."

Williams sees layover time as 'help time' or recovery time. "The key to being a successful operator is to have self discipline, think, use your head, and look out for your fellow operator by not making things difficult for him. We're all part of the same family," he states. Williams, who resides in Los Angeles attends a radio broadcasting course at USC in his spare time.



The classroom portions of the line instructors training and refresher program are held in the instruction department headquarters at Location 33. Above, instructor P. G. Smith leads a classroom discussion with, seated at first table, left to right: Division 2 operators Gilbert Moncivais, Curtis Wyrick and Curtis Carpenter.

Seated at the second table are again left to right: Bill Freeman; D. Dukes; George Crowe; and Harold Griffin.

After completing the program, the operators, below, received line instructor badges to be worn above their badge numbers from Division 2 manager Wes McCarns, second from left in the back row.



10-11 — This bright orange radio training van has been making the rounds of RTD's divisions as part of the radio re-training program.

The van contains actual models of each of the three types of radios and silent alarms used by the District. All three radios are wired into a console panel, which connects with the cab of the van to simulate a 'dispatch center.'

During the re-training program, operators go through the motions of preparing each unit for active operation as well as conducting actual radio transmissions under the direction of an instructor who assumes the role of the radio dispatcher.

Shown in the photo above is a control panel for one of the three bus radios. Up to three operators can go through the re-training program at any one time. The program resulted partly from operators' request for more training in the proper use of silent alarms and bus radios.

## ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

### Driving Checklist

- Avoid extended idling — when not in traffic, turn off engine if you are standing still for more than 60 seconds.
- Operate your vehicle at speeds under 55 at all times.
- Use air conditioner sparingly.
- Maintain even speed. Driving at a constant speed can improve fuel economy by seven to nine percent over what fuel economy would be if the speed is varied as little as 5 mph.
- Avoid rapid ("jackrabbit") starts and stops.
- Do not overfill gas tank.
- Have vehicle serviced regularly.
- When malfunctions or increased gas consumption is noted, get vehicle repaired or tuned.
- Keep tires inflated at correct pressure.
- Remove any excess weight.



# Employees Win Praise for Job Performance

Two employees were recently honored with Certificates of Merit for their outstanding work as employees.

Division 2 operator Gilbert Moncivais was named Operator of the Month while Debbie Williams was chosen Information Operator of the Month.

Moncivais has a 20-year work record with the RTD with no miss outs, accidents, or even a sick day. In addition to being an exemplary operator, he was also an instructor from 1968-72 and is now a line instructor.

Moncivais, who represented Division 2 in the RTD Roadeo, is a native of San Antonio, Texas and worked as a bus operator for the San Antonio Transit Company for ten years before coming to RTD in 1957. As an experienced operator, his advice to his fellow operators is "to keep a smile on your face, and be physically and mentally alert for the day's work ahead. Operators should also remember

to always apply the basic fundamentals they learned in their training to their job performance."

Moncivais and his wife, Sarah, reside in Hollywood, and have a grown son and daughter and three grandchildren. Off-duty, he enjoys reading books on mathematics and working on mathematical problems.

Debbie Williams has been with the District since February, 1976 and was cited for her "promptness, courtesy and patience." Like many of the information operators, she is enthusiastic about her job: "I like doing what I'm supposed to do in the best way that I can." When dealing with callers, she says: "I try to explain our side, and try to put myself in the caller's shoes. I'm really surprised I got the award, but I'm glad I did." Debbie resides in Pico Rivera and enjoys horseback riding and tennis.



RTD Director Marvin T. Holen, second from left, presented Certificates of Merit and checks to Gilbert Moncivais of Division 2, who was voted operator of the month and to Deborah Williams, information operator of the month. Chief of Telephone Operations, Barbara Hagen, accepted the award for Debbie Williams. Wes McCarns, Division 2 manager, is at far left, and Robert C. Williams, Manager of Customer Relations, is at far right.



**LIFE SAVERS** — Employees who volunteered their time for the first Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Class get a demonstration on "Anatomic Anne" from Fred Thomas, personnel analyst, who gives the classes.

Fred who joined the District in June, 1975 has, since that time, earned an instructor's certificate in multi-media first aid and, most recently, a CPR Instructor's Certificate. He is in charge of the Red Cross Certification Training at the District.

From back to front are: Frans Wieland, mechanic "A"; Janet Clark, secretary III, building services; Joy Kennedy, pension and insurance clerk; Madelyn Coleman, security recorder; Callier Marks, supervisor of telephone operations; Rudy Ponce, typist clerk, data processing. Hidden in back is Harry Maguire, staff assistant II, Transportation.

## Moving Up

Name	Div/ Dept.	Classification	Date
Amador, Victor I.	3314	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/28/76
Bessette, Richard G.	3315	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	12/19/76
Brock, Donald C.	3309	Mechanic "A" To Mechanic "A" Leadman	11/21/76
Calvo, Evello	3307	Mechanic "A" To Mechanic "A" Leadman	10/31/76
Chang, Chi W.	3314	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/28/76
Clark, Donald R.	3314	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/28/76
Clelland, Larry E.	3308	Mopper/Waxer To Utility "A"	12/26/76
Courtney III, Thomas	7099	Accountant To Internal Auditor	12/13/76
Dancy, Linda M.	3399	Typist Clerk To General Clerk II	12/12/76
Deck, John A.	3306	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	12/19/76
DeLong, Robert V.	3306	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "B" Leadman	12/12/76
Goin Jr., Wiley	3334	Utility "A" To Laborer "A"	12/26/76
Hahn, Diane L.	3099	General Clerk To General Clerk II	12/12/76
Hudson, Sharon E.	3302	Utility "B" To Utility "A"	12/12/76
McKnight, Albert	3301	Utility "A" To Utility "A" Leadman	11/21/76
McKinney, James A.	3315	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/14/76
Ontiveros, Lorenzo	3307	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	12/19/76
Payne, Yvonne	3216	Temporary Ticket Clerk To Service Director	11/14/76
Pearson, Napoleon R.	3314	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	5/12/76
Schardijn, Wijnand A.	3303	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	12/19/76
Scoggins, Clyde W.	3305	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	12/19/76
Skale, Ronald G.	3302	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/14/76
Sheldon, Dane	3314	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/28/76
Small, Oliver	3399	Mechanic "A" Leadman To Relief Eq. Maint. Suprv. I	12/12/76
Staley, Michael S.	3303	Utility "A" To Mechanic "C"	12/19/76
Stansbury, Samuel S.	3314	Mechanic "B" To Mechanic "A"	11/14/76
Watts, Russell D.	3303	Mechanic "A" To Mechanic "A" Leadman	1/9/77
Whirlledge, Janis F.	3500	Schedule Analyst To Staff Assistant II	11/29/76
Wright, Kenneth R.	3334	Laborer "A" To Maintainer "B"	12/26/76
Zwiebel, E. G.	3399	Asst. to Gen. Supt. M&E To Asst. Supt. Maint. Divs.	1/5/77

**CALLING ALL EMPLOYEES!**  
**DON'T FORGET**  
**START GETTING READY NOW** for the  
**Domino Tournament and**  
**for the April Golf Tournament!**

## Retired

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Aguirre, Joe U.	3203	Operator	6-13-46	1-7-77
Baker, Harry DeGarmo Jr.	3314	Mechanic "A"	12-3-34	1-8-77
Bates, Helena Harrell	7200	Supervisor EDP Operations	9-17-48	1-2-77
Bilyeu, Hoy Glass	3500	Schedule Maker	10-5-39	1-5-77
Choates, Calvin Coy	3307	Utility "A" Leadman	11-28-47	1-15-77
Crawford, William Stephen	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 2-18-75	11-23-56	1-1-77
Ingram, John	3207	Operator	3-12-57	12-23-76
Lindberg, Carl C.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 4-22-76	12-3-42	12-7-76
Lundine, Stanley M.	3209	Operator	4-3-46	1-16-77
Moore, Charlie G.	3314	Mechanic "A"	9-21-45	12-29-76
Fletcher, Raymond Woodrow	6201	Former Mechanic "A" Leadman Transferred to Ind. Leave 8-4-76	9-22-52	1-1-77
Smith, Merlyn Millsap	3212	Operator — Extra Schedule Checker	11-7-51	1-1-77
Spillers, Daniel Lewis	3305	Utility "A"	7-10-46	12-1-76
Thoman, Eldred A.	3208	Operator	5-13-42	12-1-76
Walls, Thomas Edison	3202	Operator	4-1-57	1-10-77
Weaver, E. Dale	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 8-5-75	11-17-43	1-10-77
Weaver, Richard William	3500	Supervisor of Schedule Checkers	9-26-45	1-1-77

## In Memoriam

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Blair, Benjamin F.	3212	Former Operator Ret. 9-1-59	12-22-76
Bradbury, Herbert W.	3211	Former Division Dispatcher Ret. 1-20-60	12-23-76
Corl, Richard	3218	Former Operator Ret. 6-3-72	1-16-77
Feiler, William E.	3212	Former Operator Ret. 5-1-61	1-2-77
Holway, Cyril A.	7100	Former Mileage Clerk Ret. 10-1-65	12-30-76
Hubbard, Robert W.	3301	Former Mechanic "B" Ret. 10-7-46	1-1-77
Johnson, Ingaborg	7100	General Accounting Supervisor	12-27-76
Lopez, Joe	3334	Former Laborer "B" Ret. 6-1-53	12-13-76
Merritt, Delbert E.	3212	Former Operator Ret. 6-1-68	12-26-76
Quigley, Emma G.	2100	Former Librarian & Asst. Secretary, Ret. 8-9-45	10-18-76
Redmond, Lloyd S.	3212	Operator	12-31-76
Villegas, Juan M.	3301	Storekeeper	12-28-76
Woodford, Harold L.	3211	Former Operator Ret. 6-6-67	12-16-76
Wright, Ellie E.	3212	Former Operator Ret. 2-1-74	1-1-77
Zembik Jr., Joe	3314	Former Mechanic "A" Leadman Ret. 6-1-76	1-12-77

# Recreation News

## 1977 EMPLOYEE RECREATION CALENDAR

The Recreation calendar in this issue is not complete because we are adding new activities as fast as we can arrange them. For example, we are considering a flying club, pistol club and many, many more things.

Basketball will be starting soon so plan to support your local team. Also the softball playoffs will be happening soon.

For all you young athletes, and the not-so-young, who want to flex your muscles, now is the time to begin getting in shape for the annual Summer Olympics. This year we plan to hold our event at the Cal State L.A. track and we are adding high jump and relay to our program. For the first time, we plan to feature events for young athletes and similar events for the young at heart plus events for the women. We are hopeful every Division will enter a team to determine the top Division for 1977.

Remember, we are looking for all District employees interested in becoming charter members of the first RTD Toastmasters' Club. Toastmasters provide the unique opportunity to learn to speak effectually and have fun doing it. If you are interested, call Betty, Ext. 6580.

### FEBRUARY

Softball Playoffs (T)  
Basketball Leagues Formed (T)  
Pong Tournament Preliminaries  
Hearst Castle 12-13  
Theatre (Bubbling Brown Sugar) 27 (T)  
Fishing Trip (Oxnard) 12

### MARCH

Service Award Pins (ND)  
Dominos Tournament Signups (ND)  
Pong Finals (ND)  
Mammoth Ski Trip 18  
Theatre (Beehive) II (T)

### APRIL

Las Vegas 1-3 (2 buses)  
Golf Tournament 3 — 8:30 a.m.  
(Ontario National)  
Dominos Tournament Preliminaries (ND)  
Grand Prix Racing (T)  
Cinerama (The Slipper & The Rose) (ND)

### MAY

Summer Softball (ND)  
Dominos Tournament Finals (ND)  
Seaworld (AMTRAC) 21  
Renaissance Faire (ND)  
Theatre (Irma La Douce) 13 (T)

### JUNE

Bowling Promotion (T)  
Knotts Berry Farm 18-19  
Reserve Bowling Lanes (T)

### JULY

Dodger Baseball 24  
Helmet (Helmet Day)  
Summer Olympics (ND)  
Theatre (Annie Get Your Gun) 15 (T)

### AUGUST

Employee Picnic 28  
Busch Gardens 7 (Free)  
Theatre (The Wiz) 12 (t)

### SEPTEMBER

Bowling Leagues Start (ND)  
Las Vegas Trip 16-17-18 (T)  
3 buses  
Disneyland 11  
Pool Tournament (ND)  
Theatre (Liza Minnelli) 23 (T)

### OCTOBER

Magic Mountain 15-16  
Golf Tournament 1  
(El Prado 9:30)

### NOVEMBER

Basketball (ND)  
Volleyball (ND)

### DECEMBER

Las Vegas Bargain Trip 16-17  
New Years Catalina (T)

\*ACTIVITIES MARKED WITH (T) ARE TENTATIVE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR RESCHEDULING DUE TO MINIMAL RESPONSE. ACTIVITIES MARKED WITH (ND) INDICATES NO FIRM DATE HAS BEEN SET.

## Holiday Spirit Celebrated by RTD Employees

Christmas comes but once a year and when it does, it is always an occasion for celebration.

During this past Christmas, many employees contributed their time and efforts to bring a touch of the holiday spirit to their work locations. They also marked the event with festive celebra-

tions as well as gestures of good will and charity in the spirit of Christmas.

The radio dispatchers of the Transportation Services section, for example, contributed a portion of the funds they would normally have used to purchase Christmas cards to take up a collection for charity, and donated \$273 to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.



**The telephone information operators chipped in** to draw three lucky names as part of their Christmas festivities.

Winning the drawing were information operators Hope Asay, first prize, and Deborah Williams, second prize. Marie Trevalon, telephone information supervisor, won third prize.

Helping out with the drawing were, from left to right: telephone operators Carol McClintock and Rita Zwirlein; Manager of Customer Relations Robert G. Williams; information operator Jere Briggs; telephone information supervisor Mary Helen Earles; Manager of Operations George Heinle; and information operator Miguel Ortiz.

The department also hosted an elaborate day-long buffet the day before Christmas with enough food for all three shifts.

### THANKS, SANTA!

Special mention should be made of Frank Iloff, records clerk, who played Santa to Headquarter's employees in a complete Santa outfit which he borrowed from his brother-in-law. Frank made a particularly cheerful and energetic Santa who very vigorously dispensed Christmas cheer and "Ho! Ho! Ho's!" to employees on all six floors of the Headquarters Building.

This was the third time Frank has been the District's Santa.



**Santa Claus** paid a visit to the transportation department on the third floor at Transit Headquarters where the children of some transportation department employees were waiting for him. Kneeling from left to right are: Bob Knollmiller; David Flores; Terry and Ray Thompson.

Standing left to right are Robert Watkins; Robert Varga; Jason Watkins and Jon Varga (on Santa's lap) and Mike Thompson at far right.



**The day after Christmas found the Division 8 operators** above on duty, but they did have a Christmas tree. In front of the tree are, from left to right: Rudy Madrid; Demetrio Reyes; and Brenda Woods.

Standing in back, again from left to right are: Guillermo Colino; Gary Mizrack; Ron Selvick; Marion Sprouse; Bill Gary and Larry Jones.





Among the District people on duty Christmas Eve were these operators at Division 4-5.

Kneeling in the front row are, from left to right: Curtis Davis; Willie Jamerson; Franklin D. Flair; John K. Walker; Calvin Touchston; Harold Anderson.

Standing in the back row are, from left to right: Eva Mhys; Annie Denman; Morris Donald; Barbara Bryant; Maria Stanley; Norma Tate; Shirley Mickel; Curtis Shelby; Willie Brown; and Marcus Jackson.

**The Accounting Department** marked Christmas by taking up a collection for a charity. Each employee contributed one dollar to the name of their favorite charity for a drawing. The winner was the March of Dimes.

Shown above are, from left to right in the front row: Gladys Hudson, accounts clerk; Chorman Lee, accountant; Jovie Mahinay, accountant; Nick Nieves, payroll clerk.

In back of Lee is Willie Koskela, payroll clerk and standing next to him is Gregory Searcy, accounts clerk. The three ladies at far right, from left to right are Irene O'Regan, administrative assistant; Jessie Venable, invoice clerk and Josie Dahlstrom, secretary III.



**The Schedule Department** held a Christmas buffet lunch and gave it an international flavor by having several employees wear national costumes from countries around the world.

In the front row are, from left to right: Doug Asuncion, schedule analyst, who wore a Philippino costume; Simki Hundal, clerk typist, in an Indian sari; Mila Torrigos, key punch operator; Joe Vicente, schedule maker, in a Philippino costume; Nancy Nordine, schedule analyst, who dressed in an Austrian costume; Janis Whirledge, staff assistant; and Dave Dhillon, schedule maker.

In the back row are, also from left to right: Lillian Moore, key punch operator; Bob Holland, asst. supervisor of schedules; Jean Powells, veritype operator; Pauline Lee, secretary II; Ken Webster, Superintendent of Schedules; Darrance Curry, schedule analyst and Murphy Swindell, supervisor of data processing.



## Around The District

### A FEAST AT DIVISION 15

The management and staff of Division 15 wanted to show their appreciation for their operators' good work during the year, so they decided on a time-tested, sure fire method: they pooled their efforts to treat the Division to a real old-fashioned home cooked dinner.

On the menu was turkey and stuffing, meatloaf, macaroni salad, green beans, rolls and butter, coffee, punch and cookies, all served right in the division trainroom to both transportation and maintenance personnel.

Chief cook for the event was instructor

Chuck Morris who supervised the cooking of ten 20-pound turkeys which were cooked at the Division; at a near-by local church; and in the homes of steno Elena Neill; instructor John Seale; and dispatcher Joe Putt. The cooks started early in the wee hours of the day of the buffet to prepare the feast.

Needless to say, the catering truck that day didn't do much business at the Division. By the end of the day, 420 people had consumed the ten 20-pound turkeys and as Headway can testify, it was very delicious turkey, too!



**SERVING** — Volunteering to help serve the food were several lady operators, including, from back to front: Patsy Ortiz, Betty Spadaccini, Donna Ratliffe and Rusty La Croix. Standing in back of the ladies is Division 15 manager Ernie Giaquinto and instructor John Seale.



**PREPARING** — Instructor Chuck Morris, in the plaid shirt, and chef for the day, carves one of the ten 20-pound turkeys served that day with the help of dispatcher Joe Putt.



**ENJOYING** — Among the Division 15 personnel partaking of the buffet were, from left to right: operators Harold Lee; Ed Shows and Francis Walsh. Standing is Oliver Matthews.

### OPERATOR SEITZ IS A DEDICATED CHESS BUFF



Operator and chess buff Willy Seitz.

To his fellow operators at Division 15, Willy Seitz is a devoted chess player who can be found reading books and magazines on chess at the Division and keeping up on what is happening on the chess scene through his membership in the United States Chess Federation which has strong ties to the international chess scene. His fellow operators also know that Seitz recently won a West Valley Master's and Expert's tournament over a field of 100 contestants, with 40 in his class alone.

Willy, who was born near Heidelberg, Germany, took up chess there and continued to play after he came to the United States as an exchange student to Chicago to study at Chicago's Loyola Institute of Technology. Willy decided to stay in the U.S. and became a citizen in 1963. He served with the US Army artillery in Korea and then as a coordinator with the ski troops in the Austrian Alps where he helped coordinate activity and acted as interpreter between the Austrians and the



**Division 7 operator John Ingram** wrapped up a 20-year transportation career recently, and was feted with a farewell retirement party at the Division where he spent all of his 20 years with the District.

A native of the province of Ontario, Canada, where his dad was a street car operator, Ingram drove a bus in Canada, but came to Tucson, Arizona in 1951 and worked as a bus operator. In 1954 he came to Los Angeles to work for Sunset Stages before coming to Metropolitan Coach Lines in 1957.

Division 7 manager Gus Lopez says of Ingram, "He's a good man and I hate to see him go." Around the division, John is known as quite a domino player. His retirement plans include painting the inside of his house and a trip later this summer to Toronto, Canada with his wife, Lupe. Says Ingram: "I plan to keep busy, but the first thing I'll do is throw the alarm clock out the window."

"I've enjoyed working here," says Ingram who gives these tips for operators: "Don't argue with the passengers, cause if you do, you're in a lot of trouble!"

Above, Ingram, fourth from right, poses with his fellow operators from Division 7. Also attending the retirement party were officials from the Transportation Department, including Tom R. Brown, Superintendent of Divisions and Harry Maguire, staff assistant II. On Ingram's right is Division 7 manager Gus Lopez.

Americans. Willie, who lived in Chicago until he came to California, belonged to the Chicago Chess Club, which, he says, is one class below the Brooklyn Chess Club, which was chess champ's Bobby Fischer's home club.

In 1957, Seitz was Chicago's "5 second" blitz champion and he describes

himself as "probably one of the best coffee house players around." He also taught chess to younger students and many of his students are listed as winners in recent chess tournaments sponsored by the Chess Federation.

Seitz stresses that to be a professional chess player requires a lot of time and practice and to be really good requires full

time dedication. In addition, tournaments often last entire weekends and are often held out of town or even out of state. Seitz' job as an operator and his family, wife Doris and their two-year old daughter, Crystal Ruby, keep him pretty busy and he doesn't devote the time he feels would be necessary to be a truly serious player. (Continued on page 7)

## 20 Years at Division 7 End for Operator Ingram





**A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL AND HELPFULNESS**, in the form of a food-loaded shopping basket, was presented to Division 4-5 operator Annie Denman, second lady from left in the front row, from her fellow operators at the division. Annie's home was completely destroyed by a fire and she and her five children are living in an apartment until the home, which was fully insured, can be rebuilt. The collection was spearheaded by Division 4-5 operator Bill Bentley, next to Annie with the white beard, who is president of the Bus Driver's League of Southern California, which he describes as a charitable and social organization. The other operators in the pictures are Division 4-5 operators. Division 4-5 manager J. J. McCollough, is the man at right.

## EMPLOYEE IS A TRANSIT BUFF

Mark Bennett, asst. surface planner, took these pictures below of personal rapid transit (prt) vehicles on a recent vacation at Morgantown, W. Virginia, where they are currently in use.

The Morgantown cars as they are called, are made by Boeing, and have rubber tires. They run on concrete guideways, and can seat eight passengers and stand from seven to twelve. Electrically powered from a third rail, and computer controlled, their current top speed is 30 m.p.h. and the current lowest headway is 15 seconds.

The vehicles are an UMTA demonstration project run by the University of West Virginia's engineering department, and according to Mark, they are the only PRT vehicles operating in an urban area outside of airports, where they are frequently used.

The cars are demand activated, and passengers must press a destination button to get a car. Sometimes the computer scheduling leads to passengers being "imprisoned" in lay-over zones, and Mark found that the seats were not too comfortable, but he enjoyed the modern glass walls and ceilings.

Mark makes it a point to ride the transit system whenever he visits a city. He estimates that he's ridden on about 30-40 transit properties in the U.S. In addition,



he has ridden public transportation in Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. Of all the transit systems, he's found the London Transport to be the most impressive.

Mark lives in Echo Park and has been with the District almost two years. He has a bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State College in Denver, and a master's in urban and regional planning in transportation and design from California State University, Fresno.



## INTEREST IN RTD LEADS TO "A'S"



Thomas Salazar, left, and Gilbert Paul Hernandez, hold their class projects, all about the RTD, which won them "A" grades in their English class.

For two 10th graders at Los Angeles' Salesian High School, an interest in the RTD led to "A" grades in their English classes.

Gilbert Paul Hernandez and Thomas Salazar, son of Division 1 "Utility A" Agustine C. Salazar, chose to do a study on the history of the RTD as their class projects and came to the District around the first week of November.

The two boys, who made numerous after school trips to the District, gained extensive knowledge about the District and how it works. They visited the departments of labor relations, marketing, transportation, the telephone information center and also used the RTD library for research. They were most intrigued, however, by the special agents department, and special agent O. "Kris" Kristoferson became their unofficial liaison with the District.

After gathering their information, the boys each compiled lengthy reports in a loose leaf notebook, complete with pictures from RTD's photograph collection.

The boys, who take the bus everywhere, both to school and to get around after school, say they have gained a new insight into the RTD. Gilbert said, "Our project made us more understanding of the bus operators." The boys both add that sometimes they explain to their peers about bus regulations, rules and procedures, and why things are done in a certain way.

Gilbert Paul plans to be a fireman when he gets older, and Thomas would like a career in the Air Force. After school hobbies include building models, leather crafting and swimming for Gilbert Paul, while Thomas enjoys mechanics, motorcycles and is a cross country runner. Both boys are members of the Salesian Service Society.

The boys really appreciated the help of several employees, including RTD librarian Mary Travis and Bill Reason, audio visual consultant. According to Mary, "I was impressed by their initiative and the fact that they actually came back to show me what they had done."



## SEITZ (Continued from Page 6)

Seitz says his rating is 1947. He also adds that two Division 15 operators are also good tournament players, including Marty Ohlstrom and Teddy DuBrutz. Ohlstrom has a grand master rating at postal chess.

Seitz, who lives in Sunland with his family, would be very pleased if his daughter two-year-old Crystal Ruby turns out to have a talent at chess. Why the rather unusual name for his daughter? He explains: "Because that's what a good chess move should be — crystal clear."

# The New Division 7 — Taking Shape

Construction is proceeding full steam ahead on the new Division 7, as these pictures, taken in mid-January, show. The construction site is changing almost daily but as Headway goes to press, about 60 percent of the maintenance and transportation building's concrete structural form is completed. The steel frame of the bus washer is up, the pipes have been laid for the fueling stations and the 10- and 20,000 gallon gas tanks are waiting to be installed. The major part of the plumbing is in, and the concrete has been poured up to the first parking level. The facility is scheduled to be completed in August, at which time the old Division 7 will be razed. In charge of the effort out in the field is Andrew Bucchiere, resident engineer and Larry Hoccom, project inspector, who have spent the last six months in temporary trailer offices at the construction site.

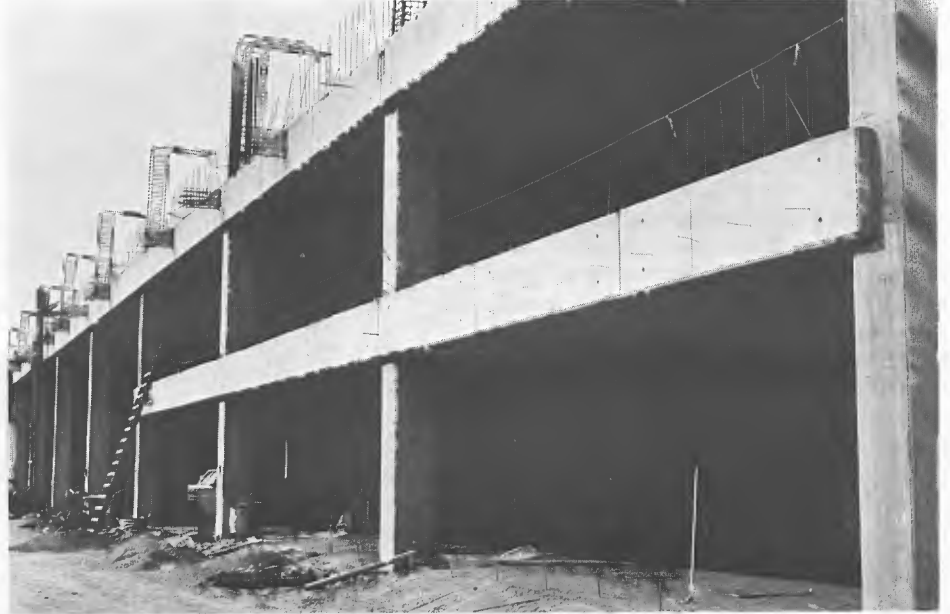
The east side of the building, photo at right, below, will house the offices for both the division transportation and maintenance departments. The second level will contain the operators trainroom and the transportation offices. The floor level will house maintenance operations and offices. All the locker facilities will also be located on the ground floor.



The combined transportation and maintenance building is 504 feet long and 80 feet wide. Shown above is only the ground level, on top of which will be two parking levels for both company and employee parking. The rear of the building faces Santa Monica Blvd.



This is a close up of the excavation for the fuel tank storage 'farm' which will eventually house 20,000- and 10,000 gallon fuel tanks. The grid at bottom of the pit is the reinforcing steel for the concrete slab which will support the tanks. The steel structure in the background will be the bus washer facility.



This is a close up of one of the ten bus bays. Each bay is 34 feet wide and will hold two buses. There will also be one double bay for tire repair.



The two men in the field in charge of the new Division 7 are Andrew Bucchiere, second from right, resident engineer, and Larry Hoccom, far right, the project inspector. With them are engineers Warren Fu, far left, and Lloyd Suehiro, who came out to visit the construction site recently. Suehiro is the resident engineer for the new Division 3-10 which is also under construction now.



## Valley Divisions 8 & 15 Receive Service Award Pins

Division 8 operators, left to right, Richard Vech, Harold Moberly, and Raymond Thacker received service award pins for 35, 35 and 25 years of service, respectively from Division 8 manager Ken E. Parker.

Below, Division 8 maintenance personnel also received service awards. From left to right are:

Pedro Jimenez, 10 years; Vincent L. Content, 25 years; Fidelium Eale Lauchart, 15 years; Jim Thomason, 10 years; Wray Deotrocj, 10 years; Jerry Willoughby, 10 years; Roque O. Cabuyado, 20 years; Russell Peterson, 25 years; Dave Maxwell, 20 years.



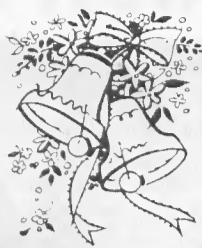
At Division 15, Manager Ernie Giacchino presented service award pins to operator William Harrison, (photo below), 25 years; and to operators, (in the center photo) Roland Anderson, 35 years, and M. A. Michael, 30 years. At far right, operators Biven W. and Marie E. Thompson, one of RTD's several husband-and-wife teams, received service award pins for 25 and 20 years, respectively. On hand to offer his congratulations was Roland Krafft, at right, Assistant to General Superintendent of Transportation.



Division 15 operators receiving pins for 15 years of service were, from left to right Rudy Lang, Dale Sholley, Gene Thomas, Ed Admundson, and Ronald Neill.

Division 15 maintenance manager Tex Lawson, far left, who received a 30 year pin, presented 10 year service award pins to, from left to right: Melvin Purkeypile; Bill Holland; and William Huskey.

## Wedding Bells



Division 10 operator Sydney Chevlin wed the former Gladys Ellen Brown on December 11 in Burbank. Division 9 operator Bernard Hilaman was the best man and his wife, Carol, was the maid of honor.

Operator Sydney Chevlin has been with the district and its predecessors since May, 1942. The new Mrs. Chevlin is the niece of division 10 operator Gordon Burr.

Sydney and Gladys are making their home in North Glendale after a honeymoon in Arizona.

RTD Director Michael Lewis married the former Lorraine Weiss of West Covina in a December 28 afternoon ceremony at Lake Tahoe. The couple will make their home in West Covina. Lewis was appointed to the Board by County Supervisor Pete Schabarum.

Alice Tolbert, news bureau representative, and Reginald Wiggins were married in Las Vegas on New Year's Day. The couple plans to make their home in Woodland Hills. Wiggins is financial consultant for a major music conglomerate.

Barbara Ann, daughter of William and Vicki Weimer, (he's manager of special projects, and in charge of RTD's employee recreation programs,) exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, January 15 with Dan Russi of San Clemente in an evening ceremony at the Foothill Christian Center in Glendora.

After a honeymoon in Puerto Vallarta, the couple will make their home in San Clemente.

### CALLING ALL RAIL ROAD BUFFS!

Division 7 operator Hal Carlson would like to hear from other RTD operators who are interested in scale model railroads. He can be reached at his home phone number: 934-6981.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR SALE

Washer and dryer set yellow gold wizard, heavy duty gas, almost new \$300. Call R. S. Flores, 225-2613. On extra board, so keep calling.

## New Arrivals



Division 4 operator John R. Cousin, and his wife, Sharon, are the proud parents of a brand new baby boy and their first child: J. Richard who was born on November 15. The family lives in Los Angeles.

Michael S. DeGhetto, supervising clerk of maintenance and equipment, South Park Shops, and his wife, Irene, proudly announce the second addition to their family, son Charles Warren who was born November 5. He joins a brother, Michael E., 10. The DeGhetto's reside in Rowland Heights.



There is no accounting for the credit and debit entry made on December 8 by Susan Koskela, wife of Willie Koskela of the Control Accounting Dept. Their new payroll deductions (pictured from left to right) are Daniel (balancing weight 5 lbs. 15 ozs.) and Deanna (6 lbs. 12 oz.). A complete audit shows three other exemptions: Deborah, 6; Dawna, 3; Dwayne, 2.



For Division 2 operator Thomas Reed and his wife, Nancy, the first week in December was a pretty exciting one. On December 3, they became the proud parents of a baby girl, their second daughter, Thomas Antenett, who joins her sister, Vonda Maria, 7. Then four days later on the 7th, they celebrated their 7th wedding anniversary. Thomas Reed, who joined the District in February, 1975, has also worked at Divisions 4-5, 15 and 2. The Reed family resides in Cudahy.

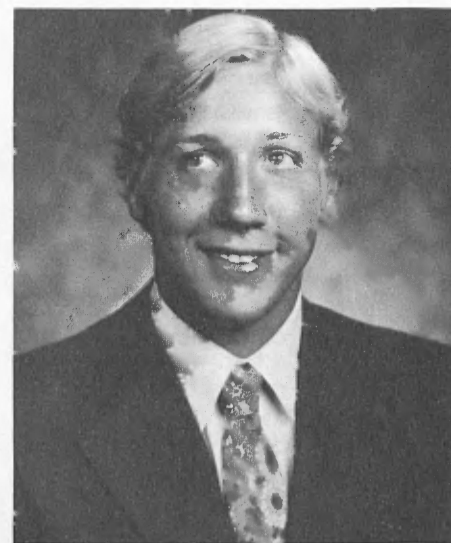
## People News

Kirby Black, the son of Sam Black, chief engineer-bus facilities, was the recipient of the Ralph and Marjorie Crump Award for Excellence in Engineering-Medicine.

Kirby is a senior at UCLA majoring in bio-engineering. Kirby received the award which is one of a kind given each year for his research and paper entitled "Development of Quantitative Methods for Wear Analysis From X-Rays of Artificial Joints." Kirby plans to work as an engineer with doctors developing medical prostheses (artificial limbs).

Everybody in the Black family studies hard and Sam encourages his children to develop their engineering aptitude. His oldest son, Kyle, has a master's degree in electronics and works for Texas Instruments.

A daughter, Kathleen, has a master's degree and teaches art in Fresno. Kyle's younger brother, Kevin, is working on a



degree in recreation at Cal State Northridge. Mom, Rosalind, is getting a master's degree in business administration, a subject she teaches.



Jack Stubbs, Assistant General Manager for Administration, received a unique birthday gift from his devoted staff: a handsome leatherbound authentic copy of the San Francisco Chronicle issued the day he was born: January 8, 1927.

Presenting the gift is Paula Salido, administrative assistant. Standing in back is Alan Nishimura, principal administrative analyst; Omar Hinkle, federal grants coordinator; Ginger Albert, secretary II; Marie Haynes, secretary II; and Pat Coble, staff asst. II.

Division 18 operator Hillard Vickers, Jr., and his wife, Alberta Kay, are the very proud of their precious daughter, Danielle Colette, who was born on October 27. The Vickers, who reside in Compton, have three other children; Troy, 15; Darlah, 14; and Tyrone, 12.

Robert Gonzales of Division 9 and his wife Linda are proud to report the birth of a son, James Lee, born January 2. The Gonzales' reside in Azusa and have another son, Robert Gonzales, Jr., who is four years old.

Division 8 operator James Paz and his wife, Tamara, announce a new addition to the family, their second child and first boy, Marc Anthony, who was born October 4.

He joins a sister, Jina Marie, 3 1/2. The Paz family resides in Altadena.

John Thrift, Jr., supervisor-extra radio dispatcher, and his wife, Dianne, are the proud parents of their first son, John L., who was born on January 16. Little John joins two sisters: April, 9, and Joan, 4. The Thrifts reside in Ontario.

Division 15 operator Douglas Cale reports the addition of an 8 lb. second baseman to his family. Their son, Douglas, first child was born on December 12 just as Cale, who manages Division 9's softball team was cheering his team to victory against Division 4-5. Douglas and his wife make their home in Panorama City.

### ART LEAHY EARNS CERTIFICATE

Art Leahy, administrative analyst II, recently received a Certificate of Transportation from UCLA Extension. Art started with the District in 1971 as an operator out of Division 3-10. His present duties include making division inspections.

### Correction!

Headway incorrectly reported that the new credit union logo was designed by Mrs. Ruth Collins. Credit for the logo should go to Anabell Adkison, wife of Division 18 operator William D. Adkison.

# HEADWAY

Volume 4

Number 2

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  
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