



# HEADWAY



Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 4, Number 1, January, 1977

## District Update

In a historic action, the RTD became the first transit property in the nation to order 200 buses especially equipped with features that will make them more accessible to the elderly and handicapped.

The buses, manufactured by AM General, of Wayne, Michigan will be equipped with wheel chair lifts, a kneeling device and widely spaced grab bars. By means of a special switch, operators will be able to lower or "kneel" the front of the bus to the curb level or lower. A wheel chair lift will then be activated and wheel chair passengers will be able to roll onto the buses via the wheel chair lift which the operator will retract after the passenger is securely aboard. The buses will also be equipped with doors 32.5 inches apart to make for easier boarding.

The first buses are expected in May, and the entire lot is due two months later. The purchase caps a two-year District campaign to persuade major U.S. bus manufacturers to meet RTD specifications.

RTD's purchase of the buses was commended by the California Department of Rehabilitation, the California Association of the Physically Handicapped and the Center for Living Independently.

The purchase price for the buses is \$16,242,000 with the Urban Mass

Transportation Administration providing 75 per cent of the funding.

The District has also filed a grant application with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration to purchase land for a new operating and maintenance facility in the west San Fernando Valley.

The \$1.4 million purchase includes 18 acres at Nordhoff and Canoga Avenues and an adjacent 17½ acres if UMTA approves an RTD loan application. Under the terms of the loan for purchase of the adjacent parcel, RTD has up to 10 years to convert the loan to a capital grant application.

The inside of the District's buses may soon be sporting a different look. The RTD has signed a three-year contract with Transit Ads of Santa Fe Springs to take care of the District's transit advertising needs. According to RTD advertising manager Cornelia Ward, the agency will be responsible for selling advertising space both inside and outside the buses. The agency will also be charged with improving the interior look of the buses.

Transit Ads also has current contracts with Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines, Orange County Transit District, San Diego Transit Corp, Gardena and Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, Fresno Transit, Stockton Metropolitan Transit and Sacramento Regional Transit.

## 39 YEARS

## Howard Beardsley Retires After Long Transportation Career

Howard Beardsley recently retired as Assistant Manager of Rapid Transit and Surface Planning after a long and distinguished career in transportation, during which he held virtually every position in the RTD and its predecessor agencies.

Beardsley started as an operator with Los Angeles Metropolitan Coach Lines in 1938, and worked as a division clerk, dispatcher, supervisor, schedule maker and chief schedule maker. In 1946 he became Senior Supervisor of Schedules for Pacific Electric and in 1955 became a research engineer for Metropolitan Coach Lines, later becoming Associate Transportation Engineer for Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Lines. In 1965 he became Senior Transportation Engineer, then Superintendent of Surface Planning, Director of Surface Planning and Schedules in 1969, and Assistant Manager of Rapid Transit and Surface Planning in 1970.

Beardsley was born in Yakima, Wash., but grew up in Los Angeles. He and his wife, Golden, reside in El Segundo, and have a son and daughter, and five grandsons.

Beardsley was honored with a buffet retirement party on his last working day, and received the best wishes from his numerous friends and acquaintances at the District. He was also honored at a Board meeting by the RTD Directors, who presented him with a plaque expressing the District's appreciation for his years of service, and RTD President Byron E.



Howard Beardsley

Cook praised him as a man who "was completely conversant with every phase transportation."

Speaking on public transportation, Beardsley believes "We should place emphasis on the continuing need for public transit as a necessary ingredient in public service. The increased importance of public transit and our recent experience with the fuel shortages and the lower fares demonstrate the continuing need for public transportation." He also adds: "I want to extend a real sincere appreciation for all the people who have helped me in my duties."

## McClain Makes Good Showing at National Rodeo



McClain, and his wife, Media, receive the congratulations of RTD General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap, left, and RTD Board President Byron E. Cook.

RTD operator Isaiah McClain, winner of RTD's first Rodeo, was one of the four top winners in the first national American Public Transit Association's (APTA) Rodeo.

McClain placed fourth out of a field of 26 contestants from transit properties all over the United States and Canada.

The finals were held at San Francisco's Cow Palace under sunny skies and a chilly 20-mile-per-hour wind during the annual APTA Convention.

McClain placed only eight points behind the first place winner, Harry Froehlich from the Capital Area Transportation Authority of Lansing, Michigan who won with 478 points. Second place was taken by the MARTA operator from

Atlanta, Georgia with only one point behind Lansing, and third place was taken by the Calgary Transit representative of Alberta, Canada, with 473 points. McClain's score was 470.

McClain, who drives out of Division 10 came to the RTD in 1973. A native of Mississippi, McClain resides in Duarte with his wife, Media, and three children: Dimitri Lynn, 11; Terolyn Denise, 13; and Monica Lynette, 8 months. McClain's hobbies include fishing and hunting. McClain entered the contest because "I was encouraged by a friend to enter." Does he have any tips for other operators? "I always try to operate under safe conditions," he says.

## Recreation News

We have just completed our first year of the Employee Recreation Program and all things considered, it was a good year. Your recreation staff would be the first to admit that we had a few growing pains but in spite of those, a large number of employees participated in one or more of our activities.

During 1977, you can expect many of the same activities which have become annual events plus an interesting calendar of new activities to please just about everyone.

In addition to RTD Days at Dodger Stadium, Knott's Berry Farm, Busch Gardens and Magic Mountain, you will be offered trips to Hearst's Castle, Sea World, Las Vegas, and Mammoth for skiing, to name just a few. As usual, we'll

arrange for discount tickets to the best in stage plays, and the season promises to be an exciting one for L.A.

For those interested in sports, we are currently in our Winter Softball Season and Winter Bowling and we are recruiting basketball managers to form a basketball league. Anyone interested in managing a basketball team, call Warren Meats at 485-7848 or Betty at Ext. 6580, as soon as possible.

Your Recreation staff is deeply indebted to the men and women who have so generously contributed of their time and effort to make our recreation program a success. We are especially grateful to the Recreation Council members for the many hours of their own time spent in developing this program.

(continued on Page 2)

# Dispatch Center Makes the Move

Sunday, November 7, found the District's radio dispatch center firmly installed in its new quarters on the fourth floor at 425 So. Main Street, and in full operation.

The entire large-scale and complicated move was accomplished on Saturday and Sunday, November 6 and 7, when staff personnel and the property maintenance section along with the radio dispatchers combined their forces to make sure that the move went smoothly, but even more importantly, that there would be no interruption in normal radio dispatch operations.

The new dispatch center is 2½ times larger than the old one and gives the dispatchers the badly needed extra room for expansion and for the additional consoles that will be required when the new bus radio system becomes operable.

The last call to the old dispatch center was logged at 11:50 p.m., Saturday, November 6, and the first call received at the new center was at 12:03 a.m., Sunday, November 7.

The old dispatch center which was used for more than eight years will now be used for future expansion of Division 2.

**DON'T FORGET  
THE EMPLOYEE HOTLINE  
HAS A NEW NUMBER  
972-6683**



The moving day crew from the property maintenance section helped transform the scene at left, below, into the scene at right. Seated in the first row are (left to right) Farrell Webb; Charles Kobashigawa; Roberto Gutierrez; Jose Fuentes; Bobbie Bray; Phillip Pungi.

Standing in the second row, (also left to right) are: Wes McCarns, Division 2 manager; Carl Johnson, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; Jack Walker; Nicholas Jaramillo; Joe Garza; John Markles; George Cowley; William Pollock. Third row, (left to right) Donald Fox; Charles Vrasaki; Robert Presler; Johnny Pruitt; R. Parker; Gil Ochoa; Paul Tossone.



## Recreation News

(cont. from page 1)

If you are a Pong player, you will want to enter the exciting new Pong Tournament. Entries close January 15 with the first round of matches scheduled to start at each division February 1. Mail an entry blank to Bill Weimer, 425 So. Main Street, Location 32 or call Betty Sconce at Ext. 6580.

During the coming year, we urge every employee to check their recreation bulletin board regularly for current events and read the recreation news column in Headway for the latest happenings in recreation.

We have had many inquiries from employees asking if certain activities could be offered to our employees. In most instances we are more than willing to consider such programs if the employees themselves will provide the leadership and direction. Our recreation staff is small and we must depend on interested employees to make these programs work. Remember, this is your program and only you can make it work.

### MOVING? A CHANGE OF ADDRESS? RETIRED?

Make sure the Personnel Department has been notified of your new address so that you can receive your issue of Headway on time. Headway doesn't have its own address files, so all requests should be referred to the Personnel Department for quick action.

## The Target Line Program Starts



Beginning in January, 1977, the RTD's Target Line Program will be placed into operation.

As part of the program, one selected line in each division which shows an upward trend in accidents, has an accident frequency rate of 10% or more, or has less miles between accidents than the system average, will be chosen quarterly for evaluation, according to William Weaver, Director of Safety.

Weaver explains: "The Safety Department, Schedule Department, the Instruc-

tion Force, Supervisory Force and Service Analysts will combine efforts to review schedules, routes, bus zones, and operations of the target line. Their observations and discussions with operators assigned to the target line will be aimed at reducing accidents, and increasing efficiency of service."

Weaver adds: "The success of the program will depend not only on these observations, but also on the operator's own personal observations and suggestions."

## Divisions 7, 12

### Win Safe Second Quarterly Performance Awards

Division 7 and Division 12 have won the second quarterly RTD Safe Performance Awards for having the most outstanding safety records for the period from April to June.

Division 7 won the maintenance award for having a 67.1 percent decrease in the industrial injury accident rate for the second quarter while working 39,500 hours with only one lost-time injury.

Division 12 won the safe performance award for transportation for operating more than 1,800,000 miles during the quarter with an 11 percent reduction in traffic and passenger accidents.

The awards and trophies, which were displayed at the winning Divisions for the quarter, were awarded at a recent board meeting. Accepting the award for Division 7 was Maintenance Manager Rollin Johnston while Transportation Manager Ralph Costello accepted the transportation award for Division 12.

# Two Employees Honored

Leonard "Tex" Morris, RTD's most senior operator, was chosen as the operator of the month. The award marks 43 years of exemplary service by Morris, first as a conductor, then motorman and bus operator. In all that time, Tex has only been late for work once.

Tex' successful work philosophy is "to treat people like people. They're all important and if you remember that then you don't have any trouble treating them right. If you treat people nicely, they'll be nice to you."

Tex has driven Line 41 (Alvarado) for the past 10 years but worked all the rail lines.

Tex and his wife, Billie, reside in Norwalk. Billie was also a bus operator from 1942-53 and one of the first ladies on the street cars. The Morris' have three married children and eight grandchildren, the oldest of which is living with them while attending college.

Tex will retire in February. He and Billie plan to travel and to visit people all over the country. His hobbies include "a little golf, a little yard work and the grandkids,

in that order."

Commenting on his long career, Tex says, "It doesn't seem like I've been working all that long, but that's what happens when you like your job."

Jean Arnold, the information operator of the month, has been with the District since August, 1975. Jean was cited as being "congenial, courteous and completely unflappable." Her excellent work record and the fact that she is liked by those she works with were also mentioned.

This is Jean's first full time job and she says, "I try to be as nice as I can. If operators are pleasant, they can calm down an angry caller. This job makes me feel useful and I like making people happy." Jean, a native Californian, lives in West Covina and in her spare time she sews, paints oriental kites and enjoys going to the beach. She plans to take some art classes in the future.

Jean's brother, John, is a staff assistant at the District and it was he who encouraged her to apply for a job with the District.



Jean Arnold, information operator of the month, and Leonard "Tex" Morris of Division 2, operator of the month, pose with Director RTD Charles H. Storing after being presented with certificates of merit and checks. Far right is Division 2 manager Wes McCarns, and at far left is Robert G. Williams, Manager of Customer Relations.

# Achievements

Lenwood Boyce Howell, asst. advance planner in the rapid transit department, was named as one of the "Outstanding Young Men of America" by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "in recognition of outstanding professional achievement, superior leadership ability and exceptional service to the community."

Howell was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but attended George Washington High School in Los Angeles. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., and also holds a master of science degree in Urban Studies from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, which he attended on a \$10,000 fellowship.

Howell belongs to the American Society of Planning Officials; the National Association of Planners; and the Los Angeles Youth Motivation Task Force. While a student he was regional representative for the National Association of Black Political Science Students in 1972 and president of the urban studies graduate student association at Trinity University in 1974.



Lenwood Howell

In 1975 he participated in a seminar at Cal State Long Beach on "Environmental Impacts of Major Public Works Projects" and last year attended the "Application of Urban Transportation Planning Systems Computer Software Programs for Management Personnel Workshop," sponsored by UMTA (Urban Mass Transportation Administration).

# Al Gray Retires



Division 6 operator Al Gray, second from right, marked his last day of work on Friday, November 12, with a farewell celebration in his honor at Division 6.

Al spent a total of 30 years working as a bus operator with the RTD and predecessor agencies. His retirement plans include "just having a good time," and devoting his days to his hobbies: painting, lapidary work and gardening. Al and his wife, Itrice, reside in Venice and are also planning some travel, first to New Orleans for Christmas and then a trip to Alaska. Al and Itrice have six married children and 17 grandchildren.

Turning out for Al's retirement were Division 6 operators and several retirees, such as John J. Neal, Carlos Ortega, Joe Krietzman and Rudy Ost. Division 6 instructor Phil Powers, far right, presented a scroll to Al.

In charge of planning the party was operator Rick Stevens. Coffee was provided by the Red Carpet Catering service which appreciates its business with Division 6 and provides free coffee for all Division 6 retirements.

## CREDIT UNION UPS INTEREST TO 6%

Your Credit Union has just declared a 6% dividend for the fourth quarter of 1976, payable January 1, 1977. This is a higher daily interest rate than any bank or savings and loan. Now is the best time to open a savings account with your Credit Union.

# Moving Up

| Name                  | Div/ Dept. | From/To  | Date     |
|-----------------------|------------|--|----------|
| Bono, Carmen          | 3219       | Information Clerk<br>To Ticket Clerk                 | 11-21-76 |
| Fehr, Ricki           | 5000       | Typist-Clerk<br>To Information Clerk                 | 10-21-76 |
| Franco, Richard L.    | 3309       | Stock Shop Clerk<br>To Storekeeper                   | 10-24-76 |
| Gainey, Arnold        | 3303       | Typist-Clerk<br>To Stock Shop Clerk                  | 10-21-76 |
| Holmes, Robert C.     | 7300       | Stock Shop Clerk<br>To Truck Driver Clerk            |          |
| Janowick, Leo M.      | 3309       | Jr. Stock Clerk<br>To Stock Shop Clerk               | 10-24-76 |
| Kelley Jr., Harold V. | 3150       | Print Shop Clerk<br>To Multilith Operator            | 08-01-76 |
| Reynolds, Toni        | 3318       | Information Clerk<br>To Relief S/S Clerk Storekeeper | 11-14-76 |
| Robertson, Michele    | 3307       | Information Clerk<br>To Relief S/S Clerk Storekeeper | 10-31-76 |
| Smith, Lee C.         | 3150       | Print Shop Clerk<br>To Multilith Operator            | 10-11-76 |
| Wood, Barbara         | 3315       | Information Clerk<br>To Stock Shop Clerk             | 10-31-76 |

# Retired

| Name                   | Div./ Dept. | Classification | Began    | Retired  |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Barnett, Edwin W.      | 3209        | Operator       | 04-30-37 | 11-19-76 |
| Cregan, Thomas Michael | 3209        | Operator       | 08-27-55 | 11-30-76 |

| Name                      | Div./ Dept. | Classification   | Began    | Retired  |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|----------|----------|
| Dupre, Clement Lawrence   | 3202        | Assistant Division<br>Transportation Manager             | 03-01-36 | 10-30-76 |
| Gray, Albert E.           | 3206        | Operator   | 06-24-52 | 11-06-76 |
| Jackson, James Andrew     | 3301        | Utility "A" Leadman                                      | 11-08-51 | 11-08-76 |
| McEachern, "R" "J"        | 3218        | Operator   | 10-10-52 | 11-29-76 |
| Meeker, Gail O.           | 3306        | Equip. Maintenance<br>Supervisor I                       | 08-17-36 | 11-17-76 |
| Miller, Robert E.         | 3216        | Service Director   | 12-03-43 | 12-04-76 |
| Patterson, William Edward | 6201        | Former Operator<br>Transferred to Ind. Leave<br>04-21-76 | 02-13-51 | 12-01-76 |
| Rouse, Wilbur Thomas      | 3212        | Operator   | 01-30-40 | 11-01-76 |
| Sholander, John Bernard   | 3212        | Operator   | 07-22-46 | 11-08-76 |
| Thompson, Frank Edward    | 3207        | Operator   | 09-0552  | 11-08-76 |

# In Memoriam

| Name                   | Div./ Dept. | Classification  | Deceased |
|------------------------|-------------|---|----------|
| Busse, Frederick H.    | 3299        | Former Chief Supervisor<br>& Dispatcher (Ret. 11-19-74)   | 12-06-76 |
| Chapman, Lloyd L.      | 3207        | Former Operator (Ret. 12-01-70)                           | 11-16-76 |
| Drummond, Joseph L.    | 3900        | Former Chief Special Agent (Ret. 02-15-46)                | 11-04-76 |
| Filek, Edwin J.        | 3221        | Former Trafficman (Ret. 06-01-71)                         | 10-27-76 |
| Halverson, Thomas L.   | 3221        | Former Chief Supervisor (Ret. 12-31-56)                   | 11-18-76 |
| James, Ralph W.        | 3305        | Former Mechanic "A" (Ret. 06-01-68)                       | 11-04-76 |
| Kautter, David E.      | 3210        | Former Operator (Ret. 10-20-75)                           | 12-12-76 |
| Mulsoff, Andrew Edward | 3210        | Operator  | 11-24-76 |
| Panek, James M.        | 3209        | Operator  | 10-30-76 |
| Patterson, William E.  | 3210        | Former Operator (Ret. 12-01-76)                           | 12-04-76 |
| Renevier, Rudolph R.   | 3212        | Former Operator (Ret. 04-01-65)                           | 11-02-76 |
| Solis, Miguel          | 6201        | Former Mechanic "B"<br>Transferred to Ind. Leave 06-16-76 | 11-20-76 |

# A PHOTO FINISH FOR RTD'S FIRST ROADEO

Fourteen of the best operators in the District, each representing a division, competed in the District's first annual Roadeo finals for the chance to represent RTD in the national American Public Transit Association's Roadeo in San Francisco.

The men, who came through the semi-finals one month earlier, gathered at the Santa Anita Race Track parking lot to test their skills against each other for the final time. In addition to undergoing a test of work regulations and spotting defects on a bus, they would again go through the tightly structured obstacle course designed to test their operating skills.

Employees throughout the entire District volunteered their time to make sure the event went smoothly. Instructors acted as line judges, while other employees worked as score-keepers, runners and messengers. Some employees showed up just to lend moral support to their favorite operator.



The contestants gathered for a group photo with General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap, far right, before the start of the Roadeo finals. From left to right in the first row are: Gilbert C. Moncivais, Division 2; Isaiah McClain, Division 10; Keramith Muthleb, Division 4; Anthony Amatuzzo, Division 15; Enrique Mulgado, Division 11; Alfred Rappaport, Division 8.

Second row, left to right: John Hardgrow, Division 7; Wilmer Johnson, Division 9; Lonnie Anders, Division 1; O. T. Foster, Division 5; Howard Brenchly, Division 12; Carlos Baez, Division 3.

Not pictured were contestants Thomas Vaughn, Division 6 and Robert Maitino, Division 18.



George Heinle, Manager of Operations, (in the white hat) congratulates winners Isaiah McClain, (center) and John Hardgrow on their first and second place finishes. Not shown is Keramith Muthleb, who finished third, but left before the results were announced.



Jack Gerhardt, the man in charge of the Roadeo, walks the operators through the course one last time to refresh their memories. The course was identical to that of the semi-finals.



While waiting for their turn, the operators joked with each other. None of the contestants seemed nervous.



Two LAPD officers, who acted as judges at the Roadeo confer with, from left to right: O. "Kris" Kristoffersen, special agent; John Thrift, instructor; and General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap. Other judges included a member of the California Highway Patrol; one police officer from Arcadia; and the managers of the Departments of Motor Vehicles in Compton and West Covina.

In back are the Roadeo headquarters.

The Roadeo was clearly a spectator event. For the children there were hot dogs and soft drinks, balloons and even a clown. For everyone there was a complimentary lunch, and a chance to meet with other employees from all of RTD's far-flung work locations.

But it was the main event, the sight of the big shiny buses swiftly and smoothly maneuvering between the rows of bright orange pylons that drew everyone's attention, and the mood grew more suspenseful as the event gathered momentum.

At the end of the 6 hours, the points were tabulated and the scores were added up. Division 10's Isaiah McClain was declared the winner, with John Hardgrow of Division 7 a close second and third

place being taken by Keramith Muthleb.

One week later, on a Friday evening, the finalists and their wives, and all those who had helped with the Roadeo, gathered for a gala dinner at the Luminarias Restaurant in Montebello. The winners were presented with savings bonds: \$500 for first place; \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place, and all the division winners received handsome plaques. In addition, McClain and Hardgrow won trips for two to San Francisco to the National APTA Roadeo: McClain as the contestant and Hardgrow as the alternate.

The 14 men were again congratulated by the District's top executives, who also expressed their thanks on behalf of every one in the District for their participation in the very successful first Annual RTD Roadeo.



For the youngsters attending the Rodeo finals, there was Mira the Clown, who kept the children occupied by marshalling them into a pep section which enthusiastically cheered on each contestant as he started on the course.



Turning out to cheer their drivers were the four managers above, from back to front: Art Begg, Division 18; Jack Greasby, Division 9; Wes McCarns, Division 2; and George C. Michaels, Division 6.

## RTD's First Golf Tournament A Success

The RTD Golf Tournament, the first semi-annual employees golf event sponsored by the Recreation Department, was a big success.

Fifty-two employees turned out for the event, held at the Green River Golf Course, and ten of them emerged as winners.

First place was won by Division 8 operator Nate Hubbard, who won a trophy and \$75 gift certificate. Hubbard and Jack Gerhardt were tied and the tournament was won by a winning playoff on the first extra hole. Gerhardt won a \$50 gift certificate as second prize. Third prize went to Bob Meeks, RTD's real estate purchasing agent, who won a \$25 gift certificate. The low gross winner for the event was Division 11 operator Thomas Pea who also won a \$25 gift certificate.

The winners for the no handicap flight were:

1st Place — Bill Kovack, Division 2,

Trophy + \$75 gift certificate

2nd Place — Bob Fox, South Park,

Trophy + \$50 gift certificate

3rd Place — Pat Kelly, South Park,

Trophy + \$40 gift certificate

4th Place — Gil Ochoa, South Park,

\$30 gift certificate

5th Place — Jack Horton, South Park,

\$20 gift certificate

6th Place — Mike Hartpence, South Park,

\$10 gift certificate

According to Gerhardt, the scores were high due to the winds, but everyone had a good time with the losers stating: "Wait til next year!"

They won't have to wait that long. The Spring Tournament is scheduled for April 3, 1977. Check your Employee Recreation Bulletin Boards in the upcoming months for details, and start getting ready now!



Among the spectators were the ladies below, from back to front: Lois DeLine; Velma Johnson with Michael, 4 1/2; and Linda Amatuzzo. In the background (seated) is Jose Galvan, Division 1 operator, his wife JoAnn, who brought their daughter, Michelle, 5.

### THE PLAYERS, BY FOURSOMES



Jess Varrie, Roy Coleman, Mike Hartpence and Bob Fox.



Gil Ochoa, Hugo Segletes, Pat Kelly and John Markles.



Jack Gerhardt, Roy Perry, John King and Bob Meeks.



Oscar Gamboa, Ray Huffer, Lavern Shepherd, and Pat Bates.



Tommy Fujiaka, Lyle Runnels, Elton Ford and Ace Holland.



Nate Hubbard, Bashir Mahmud, Bobby Hairston, and Eddie Callahan

# First Softball Play Offs Held

**The Pencil Pushers Really Pushed This Time!**

**By Ralph Carapia and Ambrosia Suma**

In a hard played and exceptionally exciting game, the Headquarters' Mainliners team defeated Division 3-10 with a hairline victory of 9-7 at North Hollywood Park winning the first annual SCRTD Softball League Tournament.

Looking back, just four short months before, the Mainliners showed up at their very first June practice looking like a bunch of out-of-shape ex-major league ball players who hadn't seen Spring training in years. Yet from this rocky beginning arose the awesome giants who, at the end of the season, found themselves the undefeated champions of the District and the only team in the league which even managed to recruit its own three faithful and zealous cheerleaders.

Despite the many problems associated with forming a new softball league, all the enthusiasm of the participants seems to be mounting for next season. Warren Meats, the league Commissioner, assured both team managers and players alike that the Winter league would be a much better organized league with more exciting competition. But, as for this year's competitive spirit, you couldn't find any more of a competitive team than the Mainliners.

As a brief post-game ceremony, John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations, proudly presented the members of both teams with well deserved individual and team trophies, and was photographed with both the winning team and the runners-up by Headway. This was the District's way of recognizing both the diligent effort and fine skill demonstrated throughout the entire season by both teams.

At the most exciting game of the year, it well looked as if Division 3-10 was going to win, but in the very last minutes, the Mainliners recovered, winning the game and the championship. The first inning saw Cobb, Banks and Bell of Division 3-10 scoring three runs, while Head-

quarters only scored one. Going into the fourth, 3-10 was still ahead, but with Edwards on base, Iloff belted a tremendous home run, scoring two. But the next three innings proved the most tense for the players and nerve racking for the spectators. With two outs in the fifth, Carroll (3-10) was safe on Howell's (Headquarters) error. Young walked and Bautista doubled to center, allowing 3-10's Carroll to score. But, when the Mainliners got up, Schlegel smashed a double to left field and scored Merkle and Serdienis. In the top of the sixth, and a tie score, 3-10's Banks lead off with a double, Crosby walked and then both scored on Platamura's double. With Headquarters at the plate, Howell singled to right and Carapia walked. Jobgen singled to left, scoring Howell. Carapia stole third and he and Jobgen were able to score on Merkle's third single of the game. However, the most excitement arose from the uncertainty of the seventh inning. With 3-10 up at bat, Hernandez was safe on an error by Howell, but was forced out at second when Young grounded to third. Bautista later walked and Cobb was safe on the second error of the inning. The real clincher of the game came when Jobgen, the hot Mainliners' pitcher, instinctively, and ferociously blocked Banks' lined drive and made the game-saving double play, ending the game and winning the championship.

The Mainliners would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Bill Beal, their fine coach, who displayed much leadership and determination throughout the season; to Jack Purcell, their other fine pitcher; and to their loyal cheerleaders and fans, whose support proved to be inspirational and never ending.

The camaraderie developed by all the members of the team is one that they hope not to lose and they only wish that next season they can generate even more participation and support throughout the entire District.



**HEADQUARTERS TEAM**-Bottom row, (left to right) John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations and Ralph Carapia.

Second row, (left to right), David Edwards; Jack Purcell; Mary Packard, cheerleader, Dan Merkle; Ambrosia Suma, scorekeeper; Larry Schlegel; Sheila DuVernay, cheerleader.

Top row, left to right; Bryan Jobgen; Mike Leahy; Lenwood Howell; Peter Serdienis; Frank Iloff; Jim Bennett; Art Leahy. Not pictured are Bill Beal; Jon Hillmer; Roxanne Zavala and Roosevelt Brown.



**THE DIVISION 3-10 TEAM** - Bottom row, left to right: Hector Hernandez; Tommy Lambert; Quincy Carroll; John Smith and Earl Cobbs.

Second row, standing left to right: Marvin Miller, Preston Banks; John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations; Ronald Bell; David Young; Benjamin Crosby; David Bautista; Michael Trotter; William Jackson.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

(cont. from page 5)



Bill Williams, Ray Thomas, David Cole and Frank Lambert.



Toby Gallegas, Al Van Haarlem, Jim Morris and Tommy Pea.



W. N. Williams, Ken Parker, Tilman Perry and Jerry Woods.



Jack Horton, Wiley Goins, Mike Walker and Bob Serrly.



Dave Biehn, Bill Kovack, James Watkins and J. O. Johnson.



Teddy Sanders, John Johnson and Bob Lewis.

## A MAN ON WHEELS



Paul poses with one of his favorite bikes. He biked over to RTD's Rodeo finals in his regular biking gear, a nylon parka covered with bicycling club and rally decals.

Division 12 operator Paul Cole is a man who spends a lot of time on wheels — first as an RTD operator out of the Long Beach Division and then as a man who bikes the ten miles to work and back. In addition, most weekends and vacations find him participating in a bicycling rally or meet just about anywhere in the Los Angeles area or in a neighboring state.

The last summer was a highlight for Paul's hobby: he biked 900 miles through London and the English countryside. It was his first trip to England since the war, where he met his late wife, Mary. In London he stayed with his in-laws, and then in little countryside inns.

"It was a fantastic way to see the country," he says. "You can go slowly enough to see everything."

Paul, who started working as an operator in 1956, used to bike a lot as a child, but only rediscovered his boyhood hobby in 1971. "Now," he says, "I'm only sorry it took me so long to start biking again."

Since then, Paul has joined several biking clubs, such as the Los Angeles Wheelmen and the League of American

Wheelmen. One biking trip took him to Seattle, Vancouver Island and then to the Olympic Peninsula. In 1974 he soloed from Lakewood to Spokane to visit Expo 1974. For that trip, he averaged 170 miles a day for 18 days. Last year he biked from Portland to Astoria, Oregon, then to Garberville and then 200 miles north to San Francisco.

Paul, of course, has more than one bike — four touring bikes, in fact, and one tandem. His favorite bike is a Schwinn Paramount and a Raleigh Professional.

Paul's son, Roger, is also a bicyclist and went to England with his dad. Paul also has another son, Michael, and three grandchildren.

Paul will be glad to talk to any employees interested in bicycling as a hobby. His home number is 429-6009.



Lorraine King

## DIVISION 7's LORRAINE STARTS SINGING AGAIN

After giving up her theatrical ambitions to raise five children, Division 7 steno Lorraine Mardhi King has started acting and singing again.

Presently, Lorraine is involved with the Baha'i New World Singers. The group has recently been making television appearances in the Los Angeles area and is about to begin recording an album.

With the group, Lorraine has appeared on the Odyssey Show on Channel 4 and, on December 26, on the "Dimensions" program on Channel 7. Lorraine's youngest child, Deborah Lynn, 16, also sings with the New World Singers.

Lorraine, originally from New York City, started singing on radio programs at the age of two. She studied acting at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and appeared in Off-Broadway productions. Lorraine comes from a musical and artistic background. One aunt was Ella Fleisch, a mezzo soprano who sang in Europe in the 1930's and has a plaque dedicated to her in the Rome Museum for her performance of the title role in Verdi's Aida. Another aunt, Ferrike Boros, was nominated for an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her role as the grandmother in the original production of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Lorraine is also a first cousin, on her father's side, to the late magician, Harry Houdini.

Lorraine's children all either sing or play an instrument. Her second son, Steve King, recently appeared on the Gong Show (and won) with the "Misty Blue" group as a bass guitarist. Steve also arranges for Spike Jones, Jr., and composed two songs which were performed on the Dimensions program; "Rose Garden" and "Love Me." Her three other children are attending college.

For the New World Singers, Lorraine practices twice a week and performs almost every weekend. December was a particularly busy month for the New World Singers and Lorraine. One week had been set aside by Mayor Bradley as Bahai Week, and the group actively performed throughout the city.

Lorraine has been with the District 10 years, 9 1/2 of them at Division 7. She resides in Los Angeles.

## SPARKY IS BUSY IN SHOW BIZ



In just three years, 8-year-old Sparky Marcus, son of Art Issoglio, the District's supervisor of lay out in the Schedule Department, has progressed from acting in television commercials to a major role in a Walt Disney picture, "Freaky Friday," and a regular role on the new "Nancy Walker Show." Fans of "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," also saw Sparky last season as the 'late' Rev. Jimmie Joe Jeeter.

For the Issoglio family, which includes Mom Lylene, son Chris, 15, and daughters Susan, 15, and Peggy, 17, Sparky's career was totally unexpected.

It was at the suggestion of a friend that Sparky started going out for commercials. "We never thought he'd get into commercials," says Art, "and we never thought he would go beyond that." But then Sparky got into a TV movie, "The Skating Rink," and started to get small parts in feature films.

Off the set, Sparky is treated as a normal youngster whose interests include his hamster and a rock collection. However, another hobby of Sparky's is riding his dirt bike, a gift from Evil Kneivel, whom Sparky got to know while filming "Viva Kneivel!"

Sometimes, though, Sparky's acting commitments interfere with being just an average youngster. When on the set, Sparky has a tutor, instead of attending the Pasadena elementary school he usually goes to, and two years ago he had to miss the school Christmas play because of acting commitments.

Sparky, who gets a dollar per working day allowance, has no idea of the money he is making, which is being put into a trust fund for him. Says his Dad: "The pay is fantastic and just working for a few years is worth the money."

Although the Issoglio family claims that Sparky's talent and ability is purely accidental, Art does admit that once he had ambitions to be an actor, and says that Lylene once studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Sparky himself is taking all this in stride and considers his acting "work." Art says: "Sparky likes people and enjoys being with them. He's also good at playing the scenes the way the director wants them played." Sparky also doesn't mind posing for publicity and photographs because "he's a ham." But what does Sparky want to be when he grows up? Says Art: "He wants to be a fireman!"

## A PATRIOTIC RETIREE

Martin Taylor, who retired as an RTD operator in 1975, has been devoting his time since his retirement to his hobbies, the most unusual of which is his van, which he has decorated in red, white and blue in honor of America's Bicentennial. But instead of using paint, Taylor chose to do it in acrylic crochet work.

On the outside of the blue and white van, the front and back bumpers, the spare tire and the gas cap are covered in sturdy, well-knit red, white and blue stars,

circles and stripes. Inside the van, the seats, steering wheel, sun visors, door handles, knobs and ash trays also receive the same decor.

The project took Martin 2 1/2 months of working 12-18 hours a day to weave the 8-1/2 miles of yarn with a "G" needle.

Martin, who has crocheted many more conventional items, finds that working with his hands is great therapy and a great way to mark America's 200th birthday with something truly unique.



Martin and his wife, Merle, who reside in Norwalk, pose with their van. Note the red, white and blue fringed curtains. The seats also have a pattern of stars and stripes.

## Wedding Bells



Don and Jill

Division 15 operator Jill Alves and Division 11 operator Don Burns exchanged wedding vows on December 4 in Scottsdale, Arizona where Jill's family resides.

Jill and Don are making their home in La Crescenta, after a honeymoon in Las Vegas.

Jill has been with the District since 1974 when she started as an operator at Division 10. Don has been with the District since June. The couple met while hiking in Glendale.

Melvin Holt, Division 7 instructor, wed the former Patricia Ann Olson on Saturday, October 30 in Las Vegas. The newlyweds make their home in Reseda.

Oscar F. Johnson, who retired recently from Division 9, and his wife, Mary Jane, are at home in Pico Rivera after an October 11 wedding in Las Vegas.

Oscar retired October 10, the day after his birthday, and got married the very next day! Oscar, who started as bus operator in 1936, has several "firsts" with the District, including the first operator to drive a bus for 40 years and also to have a 40-year safety record.

Division 15 operators Lou Mitchell and Don Van Dyke exchanged wedding vows on Sunday, December 11. The couple, who met at the Division, were married at Valley Christ Church in Van Nuys by fellow Division 15 operator and pastor Jim Baker. The couple will make their home in Sunland. Attending the wedding were several clerks and operators from Divisions 15 and 8.

### Future Pro?

Division 6's Otis Porche's son may be a future name to watch in football. Zenon, a sophomore at the Daniel Murphy High School started as a linebacker for the Murphy Nobles and in a game last season scored 20 tackles against Loyola.

The 5' 10", 175-lb. Zenon, #77 on the Nobles, hopes to play football for USC and then turn pro. If he does, remember, you read it first in Headway!

## Happy Anniversary



Phillip Fleischman, mechanic "B" at Division 6, and his wife, Ruth, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on February 23. Ruth and Phillip have two sons and reside in Los Angeles.

Division 6 operator Richard Stevens celebrated his 37th wedding anniversary on October 21. He and his wife, Eva, reside in Santa Monica.

## New Arrivals



Division 15 Larry Whitworth and his wife, Susie, proudly report the birth of a son, Kelly, who was born October 15. The Whitworths, who reside in El Monte have two other children: Christine, 11, and Troy, 5 1/2.

Division 6 operator Michael White, and his wife, Gail, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Jaleel White, who was born on November 27. It's the first baby for the Whites who reside in Inglewood.



Yolanda Bruton, senior personnel analyst, was recently surprised with a baby shower by her fellow co-workers in the personnel department. With Yolanda is Joann Bowman, Director of Training. Yolanda and her husband, Bob, expect their baby this month. They reside in San Pedro.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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## People News

Sandie Hill, daughter of Division 9 operator Bill Hill, was chosen "Miss California Credit Union" in the statewide finals held on November 6 at Disneyland.

Sandie, who was featured in the last issue of Headway under "People News" for winning the "Miss Southeast Chapter of the California Credit Union League", won over 30 other contestants. She will receive a trip to Acapulco and appeared as a queen on the California Credit Union Float in the New Year's Day Parade.

The competition included interviews with three judges and a written exam on the California Credit Union League.

Sandie, who lives in Whittier, works as an executive secretary for Ameron. A graduate of Monte Vista High School, she has attended Cerritos Junior College. Her hobbies include singing, tennis, and Polynesian dancing.



Sandie

## Employees Have A fine Time Fishing

Division 9 dispatcher Foster Thompson reports that 53 employees recently had a very successful fishing trip November 6.

The group chartered the 75' China Clipper in Oxnard for the over-night fishing trip and spent Saturday, November 6 fishing in the deep, clear waters five hours off the Channel Islands.

The China Clipper sleeps 63 and has a full galley, complete with galley cook and three deck hands in addition to the captain.

Thompson, who goes deep sea fishing about once a month, would like to see the fishing trips become truly a RTD event and urges employees at other divisions who are interested in such trips to send him a card at Division 9.

The fee for the trip is \$20 and includes overnight accommodations and anchovy bait. He also notes that the maximum limit of fish, one sack, can be skinned, deboned and fileted for only \$3 by the deckhands and extra fishing gear can be rented.



**WINNING FORM** — Carla DeGuire, daughter of Carl DeGuire, schedule checker, and his wife, Mary, was chosen head cheer leader of the Ruddock Junior High Rebels for the 1976-77 school year.

Carla's cheer leading team took first place in the statewide competition in the eighth grade classification last November at the Rio Hondo Preparatory Academy in Arcadia.



Division 9 dispatcher Foster Thompson, center, shows off his prize catch for which he won the first prize. Close runners-up, missing by only a few ounces, were Les Price, Division 9 dispatcher, left, and Division 9 operator Pedro Castro.

## HEADWAY

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