



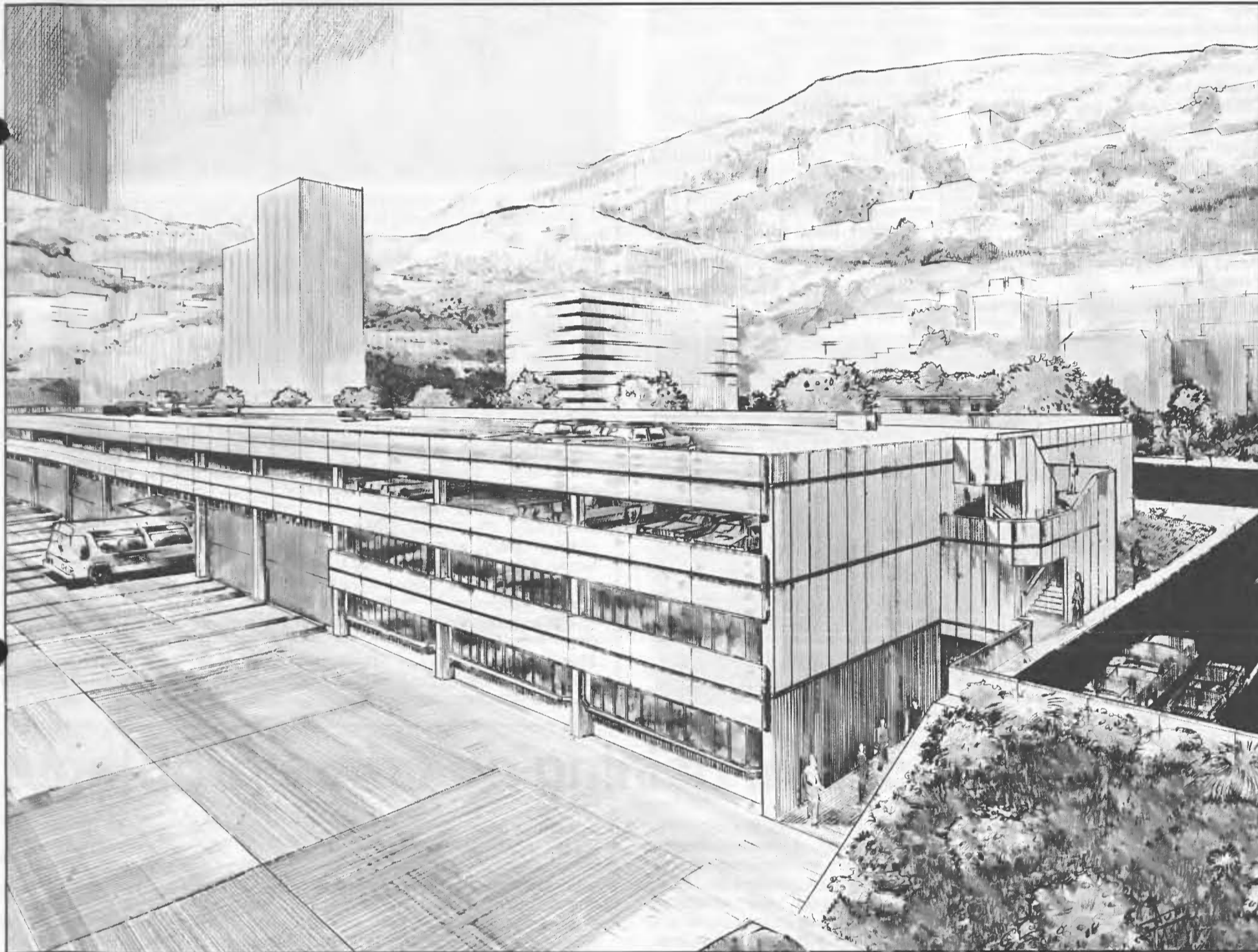
HEAD



WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 4, Number 9, October 1977



Open house festivities to herald new Div. 7

After nearly two years of almost continuous work in site preparation and construction, the beautiful new Division 7 at 8800 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood is opening. And on Sunday, November 20, RTD employees and their families will have a special opportunity to visit this fascinating structure with its unusual architecture and modern furnishings and equipment.

The open house festivities will begin at 12 noon and end about 4 p.m. Local elected officials, the public and District management and personnel are invited.

A formal unveiling and dedication of a bronze plaque by the District's Board of Directors will be made. Throughout the afternoon, employees will be able to walk through the building on their own or take advantage of guided tours highlighting the division's special features. Scale models of the site, RTD film and slide presentations, brochures and other in-

formative materials will be available.

Other attractions will include rides on the new double-deck bus and rides on standard buses through the new bus washer facility. In addition, there will be refreshments, door prizes and giveaways for the children.

But by far the biggest highlight of the day will be viewing the design and layout of the new structure. Division 7 incorporates some of the most innovative features in the transit field.

First, both the Transportation and Maintenance Departments are housed under a single roof. This main building is also very spacious, with the ground floor stretching 82 feet in width by 508 feet long.

The two uppermost levels of this multi-story structure accommodate employee parking, while public parking is located on the building's east side.

The Transportation Department, located on the mezzanine level, in-

cludes the main lobby; community relations room; restrooms; operators' assembly area; reception area; offices for the division manager, assistant division managers and division dispatchers; a conference room; and file and storage area.

The rooms are light and airy, with a great deal of open space and glass. Accent walls in various bright colors provide a cheerful look that's carried over by the contemporary furniture styles.

Also unique is the operators' assembly area which is divided by low partitions into separate areas for reporting, reading, television viewing, table games, ping pong, and pool. The south wall, mostly glass, offers a panoramic view of the entire south yard.

Downstairs on the ground floor, the Maintenance Department houses the repair and maintenance garage. There is a shop area accommodating up to 20 coaches and tire and brake repair facilities.

Other sections include the maintenance offices, lunchroom with microwave oven and other kitchen equipment, locker room, restrooms and classroom.

In the yard to the south are the bus parking area, fueling and interior bus cleaning building, and automatic bus washing station. The station, patterned after Division 9, has been designed to fuel and vacuum four coaches simultaneously. In the future, all yards will have this type of service facility.

The newly-completed Division 7 will accommodate approximately 250 coaches. Total cost of constructing this much-needed new facility was \$5.3 million.

Don't miss the celebration of this RTD milestone on November 20! Division 7's official opening is an event in which all District personnel can take great pride, showcasing the latest trends and progress occurring in the world of public transportation and services.

Employees train to confront crises

A major earthquake, a fire inside a building, a bomb threat or civil disorder could strike with little or no warning. While the likelihood of them occurring is remote, the District is preparing its personnel.

Under a Training Department program begun this year, a 12-hour course in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) has been given to personnel from Building Services, the Print Shop and Special Agents, and to all floor monitors at the downtown headquarters building.

Floor monitors are those persons appointed to lead the evacuation from their work area under crises conditions. In addition, they're responsible for handling communications on the red emergency telephones—connected directly to the Dispatch Center—and helping implement the directions given.

These instructions amplify the

guidelines outlined for all employees on their wallet-size, pink Emergency Procedures Card.

The two-part course is taught by Fred Thomas, RTD Personnel Analyst, who's a certified Red Cross instructor. The section on first aid covers the control of bleeding, properly bandaging and treating wounds, splinting, counter-acting poisons, and administering artificial respiration. Skill practice sessions are included.

The second part focuses on CPR techniques used in most cardiac arrest situations where first aid is needed and medical assistance won't be excessively delayed.

Because of its potential lifesaving value, the Training Department hopes to expand the program by offering the course on a voluntary basis to all interested District personnel during non-working hours. For more information, contact Mike Leahy at Ext. 6390.



Thomas (right) directs practice session on first aid



Job excellence recognized

Frank Provencher, Wilbert Beard, and Marvin Michael were honored by the Board of Directors as the three Employees of the Month for August.

Frank Provencher, Division 9 Maintenance employee, was praised for his ability to take care of complicated problems, particularly those involving double deck buses, tow trucks or sweepers. He has the quality of being courteous and pleasant while maintaining an air of authority. And he's always on time, never leaves early and rarely takes sick leave, his Division Maintenance Manager reported.

Also being commended was Wilbert Beard, Information Operator, who's been with RTD since mid-1974. Numerous members of the public have thanked him for his courteous service and efficient response in providing them with the needed information. He more than meets District standards in all of his job-related tasks.

Division 15 Operator Marvin Michael has excelled in punctuality, driving safety, dependability and lack of missouts since he began working for the District in 1941. He's always well-mannered and consistently does fine work without calling attention to himself or his on-the-job performance.

Participating in the recent awards ceremony shown above are (from left): Director Michael Lewis; Jim Stinson (in rear), Division 9 Maintenance Manager; Provencher; Robert Williams, Manager of Customer Relations; Beard; Ernie Giaquinto, Division 15 Transportation Manager; and Michael.

Ride Along Program gaining on crime problems

Two juvenile pickpockets board an RTD bus and spot an ideal victim—an elderly man, sound asleep, with his wallet within easy reach. While one youth is eager to grab it, his companion hesitates. He's heard RTD buses sometimes carry undercover police officers.

The two argue, then decide to forego their contemplated crime. Their choice was fortunate. Because neither of them was aware their entire conversation was overheard by an undercover officer sitting next to them!

News of the Ride Along Program is spreading among the "street people" and for that reason, it's been increasingly effective during the two years it's been in existence. Conducted in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department, Ride Along was designed to reduce the disturbances occurring on RTD buses by teaming RTD special agents with police officers—all travelling incognito—to monitor passengers' activities.

Special Agents Ray Thomas and Elston Burnley are RTD's real life version of Starsky and Hutch. Both 18-year District veterans, their experience as former bus operators makes them especially knowledgeable about the problems drivers can face. And they're both extensively trained in law enforcement.

When an arrest is made, the agents radio in for a nearby patrol

unit to close in on the bus. Afterwards, one of them makes a brief speech to the rest of the passengers, explaining the Ride Along Program and thanking everyone for their cooperation.

Thomas and Burnley's locations vary throughout the District. Whether it's pickpockets working the central Wilshire area, marijuana smoking by San Fernando Valley youths, or assaults noted in East Los Angeles, they respond to reports from bus passengers, from local elected officials forwarding constituents' letters, or from the bus operators.

Currently this information is used to "flag" problem areas on a map. Soon the system will be computerized, providing an even more accurate crime profile.

Dick Kelso, RTD's Chief Special Agent, urges all RTD operators to use the Unenforced Rule Report form, recording the date, time and location of an incident. "This is the only way we're going to clean up the problems out there," he said.

The results have been rewarding. For example, during one September day, the special agents made 15 arrests in southwestern Los Angeles for marijuana smoking, drinking by minors, disturbing the peace and related offenses. Often they'll board a bus looking for a particular problem and find another type of offense occurring.

Ninety-nine per cent of the

disturbances involve youths. So an integral part of Thomas and Burnley's job is participating in school rap sessions and establishing a closer rapport with local teenagers.

Not only are police officials and community leaders pleased with the Ride Along Program, but those members of the public who've seen it in action have also expressed enthusiasm.

When Burnley and Thomas first began making arrests aboard a bus, they were treated with cold stares and some derogatory remarks.

But the public's attitude toward tolerating crime has changed, Kelso noted. Now when a troublemaker is escorted into a waiting patrol car, the special agents are cheered and applauded by the rest of the passengers.



Kelso pinpoints crime problem areas on wall map



ANYONE SEARCHING FOR the downtown headquarters of RTD at 425 South Main on the morning of October 7 would have been surprised to find that the building had become Reed Community Hospital, with uniformed doctors and nurses stationed outside the main door. No, RTD hadn't moved. The temporary name change was made to accommodate a studio camera crew filming a segment of the television program, "Baretta." The main entrance to the RTD building is ideal for shooting a hospital scene. In fact, at least one unsuspecting passerby that morning tried to check into the "medical facility," thinking it was the real thing.

RTD's vital statistics

Moving up

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Date
Becker, Russell A.	7300	Jr. Stock Clerk to Stock Clerk	9/18/77
Feickert, Paul R.	3298	Supvr. V.O. Ex. Rad. Disp. to Radio Dispatcher	10/2/77
Wicks, Bobby J.	3110	Mop-Wax/Re. Mail Carrier to Mail Carrier	8/28/77
Hillery, George	3309	Utility "A" to Utility "A" Leadman	8/13/77
Hundal, Simkie	3500	Schedule Typist to Schedule Analyst	9/18/77
Jernigan, James M.	3298	Supvr. V.O. Ex. Rad. Disp. to Radio Dispatcher	10/2/77
Knox, Paul E.	3296	Supv. of V.O. to Supvr. of V.O. Ex. Radio Disp.	9/11/77
Leahy, Arthur T.	9100	Community Rep. I. to Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	9/5/77
Mahoney, Paul J.	3203	Asst. Div. Trans. Mgr. to Div. Trans. Manager	10/2/77
McIntyre, Robert R.	3307	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	9/1/77
Paz, James A.	3307	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	9/1/77
Reiley, Gloria	7100	Information Clerk to Cash Clerk	9/4/77
Taylor, Jr., Sam Burdon	3309	Utility "A" to Utility "A" Leadman	9/13/77
Thomas, Isaac F.	3297	Op. Ex. Instr. of V.O. to Instructor of V.O.	9/11/77
Troy, Warren J.	3307	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	8/28/77
Wesson, Irving	3334	Utility "A" to Prop. Maintainer "C"	9/11/77
Wicks, Robert B.	5000	Inf. Clk. Ex. Sup. to Supv. of Tel. Oper.	10/2/77
Woods, Gerald D.	3208	Asst. Div. Trans. Mgr. to Div. Trans. Manager	10/2/77

Retired

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Ernst, Alfred E.	3209	Operator	2/15/51	9/2/77
Flowers, Robert L.	6201	Former Operator Trans. to Ind. Leave 11/18/75	5/21/53	9/12/77
Graeser, George W.	3297	Instructor of V.O.	2/5/46	9/8/77
Hoskins, Robert C.	3314	Mechanic "A"	8/25/67	9/8/77
France, Victor L.	3210	Operator	9/5/45	9/21/77
Miller, Clarence A.	3297	Instructor of V.O.	11/26/40	9/8/77
Rose, Sidney	3900	Special Agent	9/17/47	10/1/77
Rychliski, Joseph	3202	Operator	7/20/59	9/19/77

In memoriam

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Amolitos, Estevan	3303	Former Utility "A" Retired 4/1/66	9/26/77
Biehl, Maurice	3207	Former Operator Retired 11/23/65	9/15/77
Carpenter, Ralph G.	3209	Former Operator Retired 6/1/69	9/29/77
Fernez, Maria D.	3302	Utility "B"	9/15/77
Ross, Charles W.	3307	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 6/1/71	9/13/77
Tillar, John	3299	Former Bldg. Janitor Retired 6/1/60	9/11/77
West, William H. S.	3209	Former Operator Retired 3/14/60	8/11/77

District honored for safe driving record

Six District divisions earned special recognition by the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council for outstanding fleet safety operation during 1976-1977.

Division managers as well as other key RTD personnel attended the 33rd Annual Fleet Safety Awards Dinner on October 3 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel to accept their plaques before more than 500 Southland business and government leaders and guests. Among those attending were George Heinle, RTD Manager of Operations; Bill Weaver, Director of Safety; and Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation.

In the Motorcoach Transit Division, for those organizations averaging over 350,000 miles per month, RTD's Division 9 won first place, Division 15 earned second place award, and Division 12 received the third place honors.

For those averaging 200,000 to 350,000 miles monthly, Division 11 won first place, Division 5 ranked second, and Division 10 earned the third place award.

The annual safety awards competition includes a wide array of industries and businesses involved in transporting goods and services, including police and fire departments, bakeries, beverage suppliers, public utilities, petroleum companies and others.

Recreation news:

Art show offers bargain prices

On three successive Saturdays beginning November 5, RTD employees, families and friends will have an opportunity to purchase works of art at greatly reduced prices. Admission to the art show and sale, conducted in conjunction with Pacific Telephone and Southern California Edison, is free. See the ad elsewhere in this issue for locations and times.

The RTD softball playoffs began October 16 and will continue through mid-November at the Whittier Narrows. Four divisional teams are competing, with the final championship game scheduled for November 13.

November also brings the Second Annual RTD Domino Tournament. The preliminaries will be held at the various divisions, with the playoffs taking place in the cafeteria at RTD's downtown headquarters. Check the dates posted on the recreation bulletin boards.

For the District's "pool sharks," a pool tournament is being planned for late November or early December. Divisional playoffs will then occur at the new Division 7 in West Hollywood.

Employees who'd like to slim down and improve their overall well-being are invited to attend the exercise classes being held Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5 to 6 p.m. The location is the

downtown headquarters building, Employment Office, Second Floor. Both men and women are welcome. For more information, contact the class instructor, Gil Sanders, at Ext. 6669.

All musically-inclined personnel are reminded that a professional music director is preparing to organize various chorale and instrumental groups to be showcased during District functions and get-togethers. All interested persons should contact Bill Weimer through the Recreation Department immediately.

Various trips and tours to exciting locales are approaching. On December 16 and 17, the Second Annual Christmas Discount Trip to Las Vegas offers a low rate of just \$29.50 per person at the Fremont Hotel. Reservations are limited so contact Betty early at Ext. 6580.

A New Year's Eve trip to Catalina is also being planned, with a buffet dinner to be followed by dancing at the island as part of the welcoming festivities for 1978.

Then on January 10, a full week's vacation at Mazatlan is available. The \$295 base price includes accommodations at the El Cid Hotel Resort Beach, non-stop air service, free golf and tennis lessons, and more.

Further details on these and other recreation programs are available from the Recreation Department, Ext. 6580.



GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT held a baby shower on September 26 for Fatemeh Azbi, Janitor, who's expecting her third child sometime in November. Employees from the Mail Room, Print Shop and Personnel attended. Her husband, Shamy, is a former RTD employee. Shown here with Fatemeh (second from left) are the individuals who organized the party. From left: Harold Kelley, Building Services Supervisor; Anita Allen, General Services Manager; and J. C. Sumlin, Night Supervisor.

Federal transit officials tour District properties

Top-ranking officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) got an inside look at RTD facilities and equipment, including the El Monte Busway, as part of their trip to Los Angeles in early October.

Mort Downey, Deputy Undersecretary of Transportation, and Terry Bracey, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Governmental Affairs, boarded an RTD double-deck bus. Their October 4 tour included stops at the District's South Park Shops, an inspection of the El Monte Station via the busway, a look at maintenance and transportation facilities at Division 9 and Division 4-5, and a brief tour of the downtown headquarters building as part of their overview of RTD's utilization of federal funds.

Their tour followed a press conference at the Bonaventure Hotel, during which U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams announced that the RTD would receive over \$33 million in federal grants to buy 280 new buses equipped with lifts for senior citizens and handicapped persons.

Replacing vehicles built between 1949-1960, 230 larger new buses will be capable of carrying

up to 53 passengers. The 50 remaining buses will be able to accommodate as many as 35 riders.

The grant for new buses and a second grant of over \$4.5 million were awarded by DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). The second grant covers construction of Division 5 maintenance facilities and part of the cost of 30 articulated buses.

The following day, Richard Page, UMTA Administrator, John Taylor, Acting Associate Administrator for the UMTA Office of Transit Assistance, and Dee Jacobs, UMTA Director for Region IX, got a similar tour on the double-deck bus. They traveled to the El Monte Station via the busway, viewed construction of the new Division 7, and then traced the alignment of the proposed Downtown People Mover and Regional Core Rapid Transit Line along Wilshire Boulevard before returning to RTD's headquarters for a special Board of Directors meeting.

It was then that Page announced the approval of a \$41 million operating assistance grant to the RTD to help meet daily operating expenses through June of 1978.

RTD bus routes, terminals mapped

Finding one's way through an area as spread out as greater Los Angeles can be a real challenge—and headache—for both local residents and out-of-towners.

So to help save RTD customers a lot of time and energy in figuring out bus routes and connections, the District has published the RTD Bus System Guide.

This new 24-page, full-color booklet diagrams the more than 220 bus routes covering the four-county area serviced by RTD. It supplements the District's telephone information operators while serving as a handy reference resource for current RTD passengers and prospective riders.

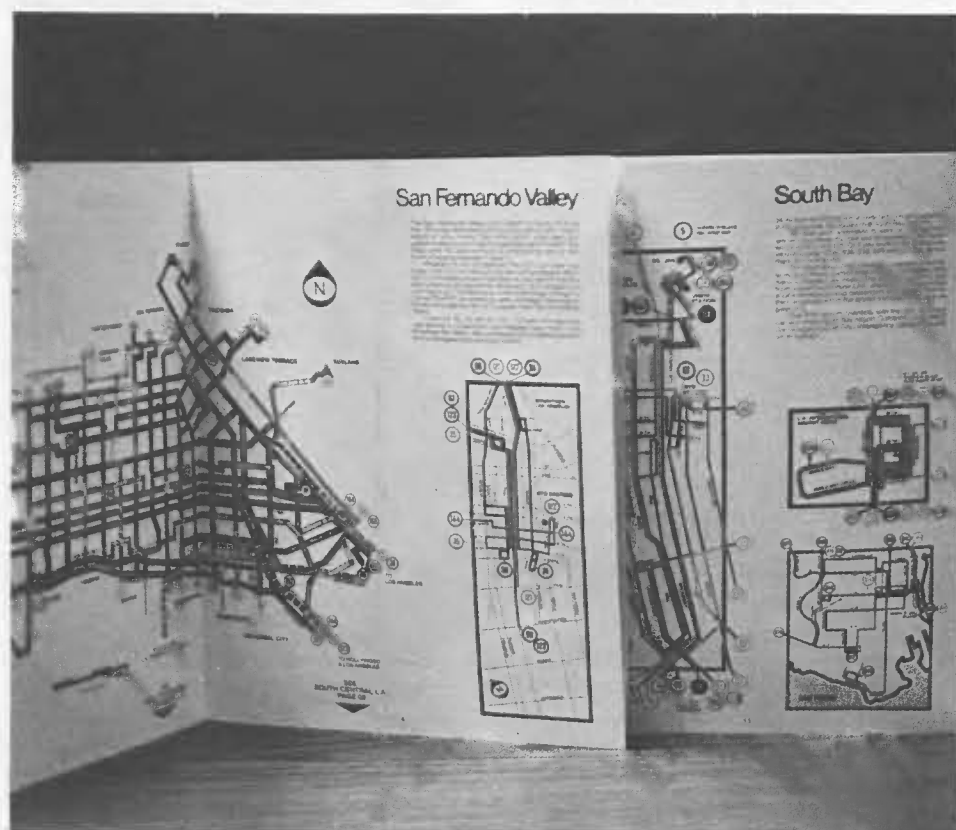
The booklet is divided into seven

individual maps highlighting sectors such as the San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley or East Los Angeles, plus a multi-page fold-out map outlining the entire system. Line terminals and destinations are also indicated.

Moreover, explanations of the Airport Express, Mini-bus and other services and programs are provided.

The guide, selling for 50 cents, is available by mail order, at RTD ticket offices and at selected RTD pass sales outlets. Sales began October 25.

The first edition of RTD Bus System Guide also includes a free-ride coupon good for a one-way trip on any RTD line.



RTD Bus System Guide now on sale



Radio Dispatcher Jim Baker (far right) explains tasks being performed by Robert Nedelcoff (seated), Supervisor-Extra Radio Dispatcher. Looking on are (from left): George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; Jack Gilstrap, General Manager; Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation; and Downey



Division Maintenance Manager Jim Stinson (far left) and Sam Black, Chief Engineer, Bus Facilities, lead tour through Division 9 for Downey and Bracey (far right)



Outside downtown headquarters are (from left): Page; Taylor; George Heinle, Manager of Operations; Marv Holen, President of RTD Board of Directors; and Gilstrap



Black reviews construction features of the new Division 7. From left: Holen; Taylor; Page; and Jacobs

Layover zone:

Bus operator muscled his way into show business

Editor's Note: The Layover Zone is a column dedicated to you, the employee, and your leisure time activities. The following is another of a series of articles describing what you do with your "layover" time. Please submit descriptions of your special hobbies or interests via the mail to Headway or call Madeleine Bickert, Editor, at Ext. 6680.

Countless children dream of joining the circus someday. Operator John Halyak of Division 15 turned that wish into reality.

This brawny, 38-yr.-old bus driver established a noted reputation as circus strongman long before he joined the RTD. In fact, District employees and their families who attended the September 11 Rodeo witnessed some of his most famous feats. He entertained the crowd by breaking bricks with his bare hands, bending a 6-inch spike with his teeth, and ripping complete decks of playing cards in half.

Halyak said he can also split wood with his fist. "I didn't do that at the Rodeo because I didn't make it to the lumberyard in time," he explained. He's a big customer at the lumberyard, continually replenishing his supply of steel rods and wood planks used in his act.

His list of television and movie credits include Johnny Carson's "Who Do You Trust?," "Laugh-In," "Groovy," "What's My Line?," "The Arnie Dobermans," "Run, Angel,

Run," "The Gong Show," and Hallmark Hall of Fame's "Lost Horizons." Most of the parts, he insisted modestly, were so minor that "if you went for popcorn, you missed me."

He also participated in two Mr. Americana contests in Los Angeles and in movie promos as a strongman.

Halyak began his weight-lifting career very young because "I was a very skinny kid. People don't believe me when I tell them that," the 210-lb. bus operator reminisced with a smile. Mostly self-taught, he recalled sending for a book, "How To Perform Feats Of Strength" when he was about 14.

His first big break in show business occurred when he visited a flea circus in New York one day, saw a 150-lb. dumbbell and lifted it. A manager watching him hired the then 22-yr.-old on the spot.

Five months later, Ringling Brothers' scouts recruited him to do two seven-week stints at Madison Square Gardens. During that time, he bent 1400 steel spikes—700 with his bare hands and 700 with his teeth.

Bending steel in his mouth is the hardest, he said. The night before a show, he would chew two packs of gum—all at one time—to keep his jaw muscles primed. Another part of his warm-up sessions involved ripping in half the telephone directories inside public phone booths.

There are no optical illusions or tricks, he insisted. The key is con-

centration and wrist power.

Audiences are often skeptical, particularly dentists. "One time a dentist came up to me when I was bending spikes with my teeth and he said, 'I know human teeth can't take that kind of pressure.' So I bent the spike in front of him, handed it to him and said, 'Here, hang that on your wall,'" Halyak recalled with a grin.

Today he's capable of lifting 150 lbs. with one hand, or 320 lbs. doing a bench press.

Besides his dramatic physical feats, he can impersonate John Wayne, Gary Cooper, James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, Red Skelton and other personalities. His talents have been showcased at several local nightspots recently, including Westwood's Comedy Store.

How do these talents relate to bus driving? Halyak entertains his younger passengers with impersonations. And he likes to practice his voice imitations when he's driving alone. The acoustics inside an empty coach are ideal, he said, like singing in a shower.

Halyak's not only been a bus operator, but a waiter, steelworker, and clothing salesman. That's mainly because circus work and impersonations don't pay much.

Nevertheless, his eyes light up when he talks about appearing before an audience. He'd like to be on the Merv Griffin or Johnny Carson "Tonight" program.

"You know all this talk about the Bionic Man and the Bionic Woman?" the robust bus operator said. "Well, I figure someday I may get lucky."



BENDING STEEL RODS with his teeth is a routine matter for Division 15 Operator John Halyak. A former Ringling Brothers' strongman, he also rips phone directories in half, breaks bricks with his bare hands, and splits wood planks with his fist. He's shown here entertaining the crowds at RTD's recent Rodeo Competition at Santa Anita.

Upcoming Management Forums will explore fire, water

Fire and water—two of life's primary ingredients—will be the subjects discussed at the November and December Management Forums.

On November 16 at 12 noon in the headquarters' building Board Room, Second Floor, Management Forum will do its part in the fight against needless fires and burn deaths in the home. Bob Patterson, formerly with the L.A. City Fire Department and now producer of AREA 16 Productions, will present two films dealing with fire survival and will also answer individual questions.

AREA 16 stands for Authentic, Realistic, Educational, Action films 16 mm. Patterson started AREA 16 Productions in 1971 when he and another retired fireman, Paul Garns, decided to share their fire-fighting expertise with the public. They have joined with educators, fire departments, burn experts and professional fire fighters' organizations to produce 13 motion pictures dealing with fire survival in the home, office and in high-rise buildings.

The first film that will be shown, "Tiger in the House," deals with the necessity of installing early warning fire alarms in the home. Ionization, photocell and heat sensor fire detectors will be explained, with vivid depiction of the importance of

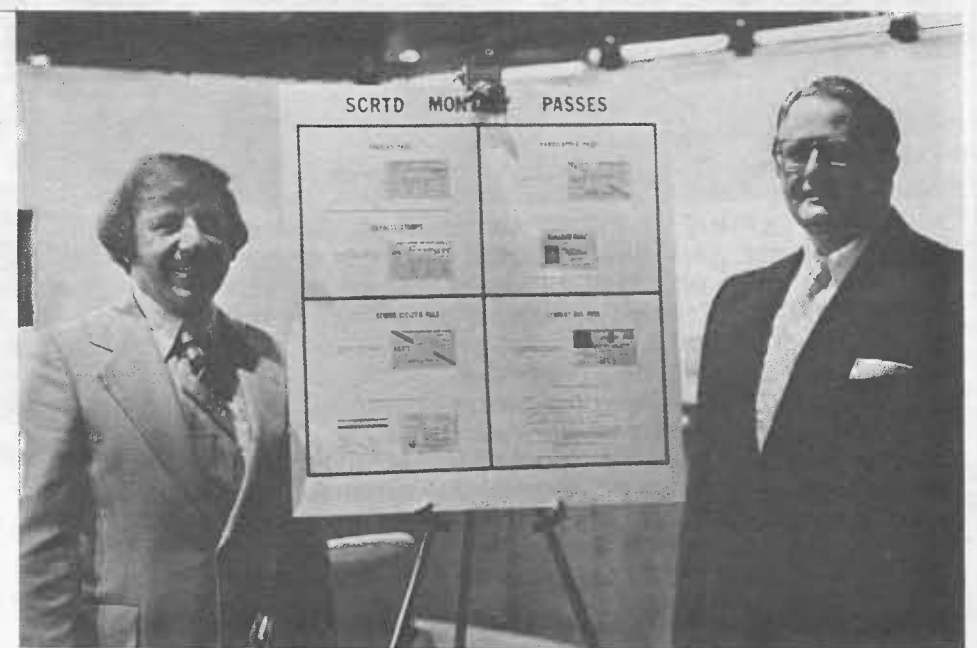
detectors and instruction on operation, placement, maintenance and cost.

The second film, "EDITH" (Exit Drills in the Home), portrays actual fire situations in the home and the confusion that can result if a family isn't properly trained for such emergencies.

December's Forum will look toward the "splashy" side of life. George McDonald, RTD Manager of Planning and Marketing, will present an insider's story, "The Night the Tube Leaked," and other BART adventures.

McDonald was one of the first employees of San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit, working there from 1960 to 1971. He'll relate the antics that began one night when he was awakened with the news that BART's underground transit tube was slowly filling with water from the San Francisco Bay. What really happened that night? Find out on December 7 at 12 noon.

With the new year approaching, we're very interested in learning what you, the audience, would like to see as Forum material. Do you have an interesting, amusing subject you'd like to see presented? What are your opinions on these 45-minute programs? Do you attend? If not, why? Write to Art Leahy on the 6th floor, downtown headquarters and let us know.



Lou Melillo (left) of Boys Markets joins Walsh at orientation

Monthly passes added to grocery list

Los Angeles shoppers in Boys Markets can now bring home RTD monthly passes along with their frozen vegetables, fresh melons and lamb chops.

Thirty-eight Boys Markets in Los Angeles County began selling these passes on September 25 to the public from their courtesy booths.

Although these passes are also available at travel agencies, savings and loan institutions, May Company department stores, the Automobile Club and many colleges and universities, "we think this will make it even more convenient for the

public," said Gertrude Vest, RTD Passenger Agent.

Vest joined Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation, in presiding over a special training session held recently at RTD's downtown building for Boys Markets. Store managers and their chief cashiers learned how to conduct and record these transactions.

While Boys Markets was the first major food chain to sell RTD monthly passes, on October 25 they were joined by 62 Vons Markets who began selling RTD passes in their stores.

Good work rewarded



BECAUSE DIVISION 15 recorded the biggest reduction in road calls over their previous month's total, the names of their personnel were entered into a drawing during September for tickets to Los Angeles Rams' football games. The lucky Division 15 winners awarded a pair of tickets each were: Herbert A. Nero, Operator; William R. Lasdon, Operator; William R. Moore, Operator; Austin Miller, Operator; Mike A. Bottone, Mechanic B; Karl Haig, Utility A; Pat Orr, Equipment Supervisor I; and Pat Coen, Utility A. Shown above participating in this latest monthly drawing are (from left): George Caria, Operations Analyst; George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; Debbie McPherson, News Bureau Secretary; and Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation.



NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFF series tickets were awarded to deserving District personnel recently. After a random drawing of operators' names who have earned line instructor status, Operators Melvin Carnival of Division 8, Aaron Dorsey Jr. of Division 6, and Edwin Ziegler of Division 2 were each awarded a pair of tickets. For the Maintenance Department, a drawing among those employees with no recorded sick days yielded the names of Arthur Morentin, Double A Mechanic, Division 8; Benjamin Mathis, Utility A, Division 2; and Earl Zwiebel, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance Divisions. Pictured above, George Wells (left), General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment, congratulates Mathis for earning his prize.



THE NAMES OF operators whose work records have been free of chargeable accidents since the first of the year were entered into a drawing. The prize was a pair of World Series tickets. Shown here being congratulated are the two operators whose names were selected. From left: Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation; Operator James J. Waseloff of Division 9; Operator Tilmon Perry from Division 12; and Vicki Varga, Secretary III in Transportation.



Nate Hubbard

Golf tourney results told

On Saturday, October 1, 65 District employees representing various departments met at the El Prado Golf Club in Chino for a day of birdies, boggies and a few swear words. Both weather and golf were great.

Nate Hubbard, Division 8 Operator and winner of the Championship Flight, had the best round of the day—a 2 under par 70. Ray Thomas, Special Agent, won the playoff for first place in the First Flight, with Johnny Sampson of the U.T.U. taking second-place honors.

All of the winners and runners-up were presented with trophies and prizes while the losers vowed, "Wait until next year."

Play was divided into four flights. The Championship Flight was for those having established handicaps. The other three were for those scoring under 100, those between 101 and 125, and those 126 and above, using the "Call-away System" of handicapping.

Golfers, mark the date of next year's outing—April 30, 1978 at Green River.

Championship Flight

Nate Hubbard	70—3=67
Patrick Bates	83—15=68
Tommy Fujioka	85—17=68
Roy Perry	77—8=69
Ed Callahan	79—8=71

First Flight

Ray Thomas	75—2½=72½
Johnny Sampson	94—21½=72½
Lloyd Suehiro	96—23=73
Jerry Woods	83—9½=73½
Wiley Goins	87—13=74

Second Flight

Bill Kovach	106—31=75
Richard Randall	102—26½=75½
Mike Hartpence	112—36=76
Bill Weimer	105—28½=76½
Ray Harris	106—29=77

Third Flight

Art Leahy	127—51=76
Bob Parker	126—49=77
Pat Kelly	129—51=78
Paula Salido	134—55=79
Ted Brown	150—66=84

Headway has new editor

Diligent readers of Headway may have noticed that beginning with last month's issue, RTD's employee publication has a new editor. She's Madeleine Bickert, graduate of California State University, Northridge with a degree in journalism.

Her professional background includes reporting, editing and photography for business newspapers, in-house magazines and legislative newsletters.

Bickert said she welcomes editorial input from all District personnel and departments and constructive suggestions for future news coverage.

Any stories contributed to Headway must be received no later than the 14th of the month for publication in the following issue. All photos should be black-and-white only. Requests for photographic coverage of District events should be accompanied by 72 hours' advance notice.

The Headway editor can be reached at Ext. 6680.

Toastmasters recruit

RTD Toastmaster Club No. 1063 kicked off its membership drive on October 19 during an open house social in the headquarters building. District employees became acquainted with the club and its function.

John Tincher, Dispatcher at Division 15, said the membership campaign will continue through November under his direction. "As an incentive for members to recruit spouses, friends and co-workers into the club, the sponsoring member will receive an official scroll," he explained.

"This will recognize his or her efforts on behalf of the club at the officers' installation meeting in December. His or her name will also appear in Headway heralding this achievement," Tincher added.

Toastmaster Club members improve their public speaking and leadership abilities by conducting meetings and by delivering prepared and extemporaneous speeches. Afterwards they take turns acting as evaluators and offer constructive criticism to their peers. At the end of each meeting, a trophy is presented to the best speaker in each category—prepared and extemporaneous.

All employees and their guests are invited to stop in and observe a meeting to learn what Toastmastering is all about. The club meets regularly on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the headquarters building at 6:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Paula Salido, Administration Department, Ext. 6491.

Credit Union has CARS FOR SALE

1973 Dodge Charger,
1976 Honda CVCC Wagon,
& 1976 Dodge Van

Call Credit Union for details
629-4963



Pedro Ramirez washes out the screen



Roger Mendivil cuts a ruby mask

Silk Screen Process Shop headed in right direction

Almost like a setting out of Alice in Wonderland, RTD's Silk Screen Process Shop at the South Park facility is filled with signs giving various instructions and warnings. Do Not Enter. Yield. One Way. Stop.

These finished products, dried and ready to be put to use, are the end result of an involved printing process known as silk screening.

But the eight employees working in this department under Lee Cayen, Supervisor of Silk Screen, produce much more than just the traffic signs posted on District property.

They also make bus stop, information and guide signs used by RTD, plus the Airport Express signs at the hotels, all the buses' head signs and dash signs, and they even put the RTD logos on the hardhats used by District personnel.

Moreover, they have the capability and equipment to do advertising, poster work and blueprint re-touching, whether it's for Transportation, Engineering, Marketing or other RTD departments.

With the extensive re-routing of lines recently, Cayen estimated 80 to 90 per cent of his staff's time is presently involved in producing new head signs. Last year they used 50 miles of mylar material in making the head signs alone.



Silk Screen Supervisor displays finished products

Although it's one of the easiest jobs, it takes roughly 15 days to produce 200 of them, taking into account drying time.

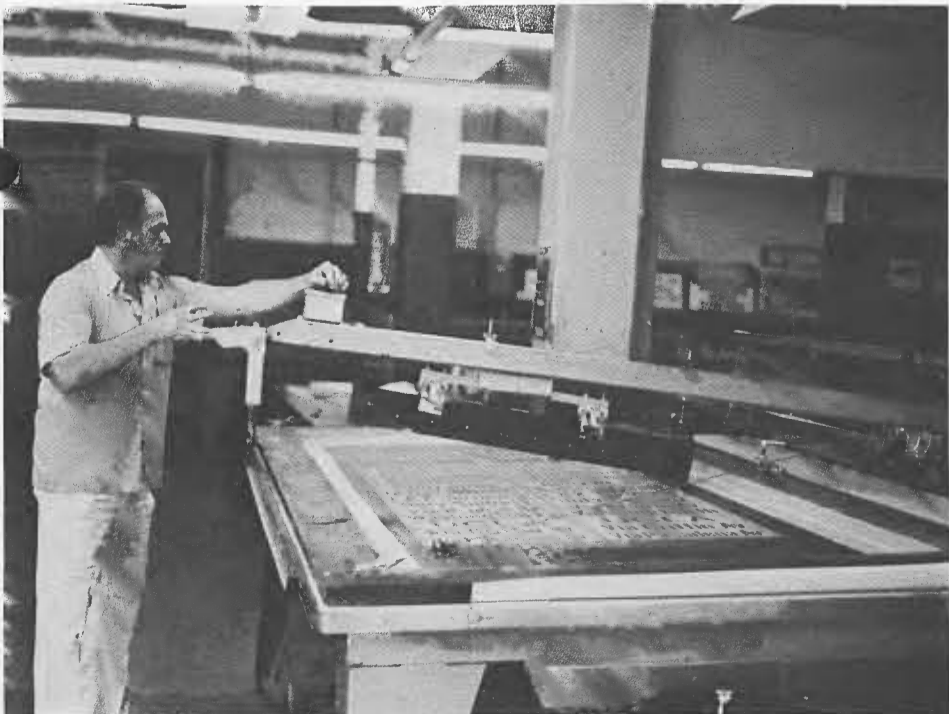
In addition, RTD is now converting the head signs from white to yellow lettering because research has shown it's more readable, especially in poorer weather.

RTD's sign-making facilities weren't always this advanced. Up until about 1½ years ago, all signs made at RTD used a stencil and ink process, and the lettering wasn't as precise.

Under silk screening, a more sophisticated method in which inks are applied to a porous surface to register the desired image, the quality has improved immensely, production time has been reduced and costs have been cut, particularly when filling large orders.

An integral part of the new improvements is Cayen himself. The son of a sign painter, Cayen studied photography, color separation and other graphic techniques at art school. He's done animation work for Walt Disney and Hanna Barbera Productions, worked in the Los Angeles City sign shop and at several aerospace companies doing art and photographic work for missile guidance systems.

Under his watchful eye, RTD's sign orders are kept moving in the right direction.



Cayen adjusts the poster printer



Anthony Owens (left) and Fernando Gaxiola (right) index head signs

RTD 'nerve center' copes with the unexpected

A bus with a broken fan belt, a wallet found on a seat, a lost child, street construction obstructing a bus stop, a delay in pull-out due to a missout. These and countless other bus service problems that may occur throughout the District are all funnelled, via a sophisticated communications link-up, to RTD's Dispatch Center for handling.

Inside this glass-enclosed "nerve center" located in the downtown headquarters building, 25 regular and 9 extra dispatchers, supervised by Chief Radio Dispatcher Joe Reeves, maintain their around-the-clock vigil. They're trained to cope with situations ranging from minor mechanical mishaps to a major civil disaster.

It's an exacting task. Their area of concern covers not just surface streets and freeways, but all District property and personnel. Besides monitoring more than 800 bus radios and silent alarms, they communicate with supervisors, special agents, maintenance and staff personnel working in the field. They also have direct line access to police and fire department communication facilities.

On an average day, these troubleshooters handle up to 1500 radio and telephone calls, over 40 per cent of which require some type of immediate action. They follow through until the situation's resolved.

On an average day, these troubleshooters handle up to 1500 radio and telephone calls . . .

As a result, it's not just knowledge of RTD policies, bus routes, terminals and station operations that's essential, but dispatchers have to remain calm while coping with a variety of temperaments and situations.

Sometimes the circumstances can be trying. The unexpected can and does happen, such as a woman giving birth on a bus or a major brush fire requiring RTD assistance in evacuating homes and institutions.

Morning and evening rush hours are especially hectic, said Superintendent of Transportation Services Jeff Diehl. So are rainy days which increase traffic hazards and headaches, primarily schedule adherence problems.

Speed and the ability to react become paramount.

One of the most trying times of all arrives at New Year's with the popular Rose Bowl celebration and parade. Planning the extra buses and line re-routings for these events takes nearly two months.

Then there's a continual series of special events at sports stadiums, concert halls, race tracks and other public gathering places that require extra attention by Special Events Dispatcher Larry Allen.

While by far the largest percentage of calls come from the operators, the District's 73 regular supervisors and 19 operator-extra supervisors, working under George Stone, Chief Supervisor, are a vital link. Supervisors cruising their assigned districts observe the maintenance of schedules by the operators, make immediate schedule adjustments and recommendations, enforce safety regulations and other factors essential to efficiency.

Like the dispatchers, a supervisor's work often diverges from the routine. They may spend their shift cooperating with police and fire officials in handling traffic tie-ups, assisting police investigations at accident sites, settling fare



Stone (left, standing) and Diehl (right) review dispatchers' reports

disputes with a passenger and performing minor bus repairs.

In addition, both dispatchers and supervisors face the responsibility of making on-the-spot decisions and implementing them—before they're able to contact higher authority to advise them of the situation. Speed and the ability to react become paramount.

Currently, the Dispatch Center is gearing up to further streamline its sophisticated communications system. Soon operators will be able to push a button on their radio unit which will send an instant signal to the dispatch unit. There a CRT display will immediately identify the line number, bus number and run before the operator and dispatcher even begin talking.

In addition, under the planned Digital Communications System, if the dispatcher is busy, the operator's call will be put on temporary hold by the computer's memory bank until that call can be answered.

The Dispatch Center's technological pioneering will advance even more in the near future as RTD, in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, becomes the first transit system to test Automatic Vehicle Monitoring.

Under this program, transmitter devices installed along various routes will automatically tell dispatchers the location of the buses, their adherence to schedules, the passenger load and other information vital to help keep RTD buses rolling along smoothly.

Bus ads becoming spectacular

More and more RTD buses are taking on a new look as the use of "free-form advertising spectaculars" spreads.

Made of pressure-sensitive vinyl, these larger-than-life ads are applied directly onto the outside surface of the bus by peeling off the backing and smoothing out the bubbles, similar to shelf paper.

Advertisers can utilize one side of the bus, both sides and even the back to convey their message.

Already ads for the Stardust Hotel, Harrah's Club, American Tobacco and Porsche-Audi dealers can be seen traveling down some of RTD's most heavily used routes.

Forty-six of them are currently being featured on the District's buses, with plans to add more. According to Transit Ads Incorporated, free-form spectaculars last longer than conventional ads placed in a frame and they're more effective in catching the public's eye.



RTD SPECIAL AGENTS held a retirement party on September 30 for Sidney Rose, honoring his 30 years of service. A former Los Angeles police officer, Rose started as a Pacific Electric patrolman on September 17, 1947 and was promoted to Special Agent in 1959. His retirement plans include a cruise to Hawaii and perhaps a trip to Israel and the Greek Islands later. Pictured here (from left) are: Mariam and Sidney Rose; Dick Kelso, Chief Special Agent; Special Agents Leroy Crawford, Ronnie Delgadillo, Kris Kristoffersen, Tony Spizzirri, and Everett Rodriguez; William Southard, retired Special Agent; and Charles Kidd, Security Guard 3.



Use of free-form advertising spectaculars spreading

Rodeo division winners honored

The October 6 District banquet at Luminaria's Restaurant in Monterey Park brought together some 100 persons to honor the division winners from the September RTD Rodeo finals.

Besides the fourteen bus operators, family members, friends, management and other employees came to enjoy the buffet dinner and ceremonies.

Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, delivered a brief congratulatory message and presented the trophies and savings bonds to each of the 14 finalists.

First place winner Howard Brenchley of Division 12 received a \$500 bond along with his trophy and trip to the National Competition in Atlanta. Second place winner Carlos Baez,

Division 9, was awarded a \$200 bond, while third place winner John Downes, Division 11, received \$100.

The 11 remaining finalists, who each got \$50 and trophies, were Adolf Saenz, Division 1; Frank Pacht, Division 2; Dan Feil, Division 3; Ernest Patton, Division 4; Clarence Adams, Division 5; Delmar Gould, Division 6; Jordan Ace Holland, Division 7; David Vaillancourt, Division 8; Isiah McClain, Division 10; Rodger Desgroseilliers, Division 15; and Robert Maitino, Division 18.

At the National Rodeo Competition in Atlanta on October 11, RTD's Brenchley achieved sixth place among the contestants vying for the title of U.S. champion bus operator.



RTD Rodeo winner Brenchley (center) is congratulated by (from left): Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation; George Heinle, Manager of Operations; Ralph Costello, Division 12 Maintenance Manager; and Gilstrap



Rodeo finalists (from left): Desgroseilliers, Feil, Holland, Adams, Baez, Brenchley, General Manager Gilstrap, Downes, Vaillancourt, McClain, Pacht and Gould. (The other three finalists not pictured—Saenz, Maitino, and Patton—also attended)



Gilstrap delivers congratulatory remarks to banquet crowd



A BUDDING ARTIST designed the cardboard replica of the new CRT terminals to be installed next year at each RTD division. Jonathan Barnes (left), 12-year-old son of Frank Barnes (right), RTD Deputy Administrator for Operations, constructed the exact-size model in about two hours. His handiwork is being used to determine how these units will fit at each division dispatchers' position. The CRT terminals will tell the dispatchers which buses to assign to which lines and runs and will also identify the bus operator.

ART SHOW & SALE

FOR **RTD**
MEMBERS, RETIREES

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

— IN CONJUNCTION WITH —
PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND SO. CAL. EDISON EMPLOYEES

SAVE 50 TO 75% OFF GALLERY PRICES

THREE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE

NOVEMBER 5th — S.F. VALLEY

SHERATON UNIVERSAL HOTEL
PRODUCERS ROOM
(HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY AT LANKERSHIM)

NOVEMBER 12th — LOS ANGELES

L. A. BONAVENTURE HOTEL
SANTA ANITA ROOM "B"
(FIFTH AND FIGUEROA)

NOVEMBER 19th — ORANGE COUNTY

FULLERTON HOLIDAY INN
CENTER ROOM
(RIVERSIDE FREEWAY AT HARBOR)

**COME TO ONE OR COME TO THEM ALL
11:A.M. TO 4:P.M.**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED - MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

— ADMISSION FREE —

MAKING HEADWAY



Art Lennen, Division 6 Operator, had a lengthy and very complimentary write-up on September 29 by columnist Jim Bishop in The Argonaut, a Marina del Rey newspaper. The reporter noted the many local residents riding Lennen's bus who have become permanent friends of the driver. He also highlighted several rewarding aspects of Lennen's typical work-day at RTD.



An August garden wedding united E. Frederick Pollock Jr., RTD Insurance Manager, with Genevieve E. Chia. The marriage took place at the Hacienda Heights home of the bride's parents. The newlyweds are residing in Glendale following their honeymoon along California's coastline.

Division 12 Operator George L. Craver is the proud father of Shakir Saeed's Peoples Craver, born on July 9. It's the first child for his wife, Glenda, and the third for George.

Off Roaders meet

The RTD Off Roaders meet at North Fork Recreational Area in San Gabriel Canyon was attended by some 70 individual and family members. Jerry Champagne, club president and Division 11 Operator, reported that everyone had a good time, with lunch served on an island in the San Gabriel River. The members then voted to return there soon for another meeting.

The Off Roaders is a family-oriented organization for persons owning a recreational vehicle or sharing an interest in off-roading. But potential members needn't own a four-wheel drive to join, Champagne said, because co-drivers and navigators are also needed.

For more information on upcoming Off Roaders outings to unusual places, call Champagne at 771-3859 or Lonnie Anders, club vice president, at 294-3920.

Tyrone M. Fordham, Division 7 Operator, wed Rifka C. Gipson on September 10. The reception was held eight days later at the home of the bride's aunt and uncle. Many of Fordham's friends from the division were there to share in the celebration.

Division 9 Operator Tommy Ramos and his wife Maria were delighted to announce the birth of their first son, Thomas J., on July 1. He joins two sisters, Lisa, 8 and Ana, 7.

Roger Flynn, South Park Mechanic A, and his wife Colleen are celebrating the birth of Shannon Marie on August 23. They also have a son, Brian, aged 5.

Division 12 Operator Jesse Martinez became a father on September 16 when an 8-lb., 1-oz. baby boy was born. His name is Jesse Lee.

Carlos Vanard Ellis is the name of Division 9 Operator Joe S. Ellis' brand new son. Joe has another boy, Gregory Dewayne, aged 6.

Ronald and Barbara Jean Coleman, both bus operators, happily announced that their new arrival, Ronald Coleman II, was born on August 11. Incidentally, the couple was married on a double deck coach.

Operator Miguel Brambila of Division 15 marked the first birthday of his son, Miguelito, with a birthday bash at his home on October 15.

Fred L. Bader, Staff Assistant in the Maintenance Department, proudly announced the birth of granddaughter Shelly Ann Straight in Mountain View, California on September 22. The baby's mother, Cheryl Bader Straight, is the daughter of Fred, a 32-year veteran with RTD and its predecessor agencies.

Charles J. Murrell, Mechanic A at South Park, became a grandparent on September 11 with the birth of John Charles Skelley in West Covina. The 7-lb., 6-oz. baby is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Skelley, daughter and son-in-law of the RTD employee.

Allen R. McIlvain Sr. of Division 9 and his wife Mary commemorated their 25th silver anniversary with a family celebration, followed by a trip to Las Vegas. Their five children gave them 50 silver dollars.



Division 7 Operator Arthur Robinson is looking forward to his son's return from Europe soon. Leslie Robinson, a 28-year-old, highly acclaimed champion ice skater, has spent the last three years touring Europe and the Iron Curtain countries with top billing as part of Holiday On Ice International.

Leslie's long list of credits includes Holiday On Ice (U.S.), the Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies at Caesar's Palace, and a benefit performance in Denver.

It started at age 12 when Leslie saw a movie with Carole Heiss, 1960 Olympic Champion figure skater, and was inspired. A woman named Mabel Fairbanks encouraged his ice-skating ambitions through countless long hours of practice. Leslie went on to win numerous local and regional competitions before turning professional.

His proud father, who's been with RTD since 1965, said he originally hoped his son would become an attorney.

Classified

- '67 Cougar. Classic, automatic transmission, power steering, air conditioning, cassette tape deck, new steel belted radials. Asking \$1500. Call Linnea at 240-5453.
- Pillow-couch, combination colors, striped pattern. Solid wood frame, easy to disassemble and reassemble. Two years old, good condition. Fixed price is \$300. Please contact Denni Stegner at 899-6286 after 4:30 p.m.
- Whirlpool dishwasher. Makes a great Christmas gift. Convertible/portable. Six cycles, brown with wood top. Negotiable price. Call Tim or Diane at 714-595-6737.
- Free kitten for adoption. Twelve weeks old, male, loveable and affectionate. Has had shots. Call Jeanette at 462-4626 after 5 p.m.

NEEDED
Volunteers at Division 7
Open House
 Call Alice 972-6323

Best bargain in town!

St. Bernard puppies in need of a good home? A 1965 Chevrolet being replaced by a newer model? A four-poster bed tucked away in the garage? Whatever you want to sell, trade or give away, let fellow RTD employees have the first chance and advertise it in Headway at no cost. Just fill out the coupon below and return it to Headway, RTD, 6th Floor, 425 So. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013. (Please include home telephone numbers only.)

Name: _____
 Work location: _____
 Description of item: _____

 Price: _____ Hours to call: _____
 Area code: _____ Telephone no.: _____

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