

# Board elects Thomas Neusom president



THOMAS G. NEUSOM

Thomas G. Neusom, the senior member of RTD's Board of Directors, has been elected to serve as president of the District's governing body for the coming year. At the same time, the 11-member board voted to retain Director Ruth Richter as vice-president for a second year.

Neusom, who has served as a director on the board since 1969, replaces Marvin Holen, who had served an unprecedented three consecutive terms as president of the board.

An attorney, Neusom was appointed to the board by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. In his years with the District he has served both as president (1974) and vice-president of the board.

Active in many professional, civic and philanthropic organizations, Neusom is a former member of the County's Assessment Appeals Board and has participated in activities in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People.

In addition, Neusom has been involved in projects of the Welfare Planning Council, the South Central Welfare Planning Council, the American Legion and the Downtown YMCA.

He is a member of the Minority Affairs Committee of the American Public Transit Association (APTA).

A graduate of the Detroit Institute of Technology and the Detroit College of Law, the RTD Director is a member of both the California and Michigan State Bars.

Richter, a director since 1976, is one of two appointees of Los Angeles City Mayor Tom Bradley. A resident of Winnetka, she has long been active in San Fernando Valley civic affairs, including the Associated Chambers of Commerce, which she served as president in 1975.

She is also a member of the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce and served as its president for four



RUTH E. RICHTER

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Southern California Rapid Transit District



## HEADWAY

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# Public hearing set for fare increase; District urges across the board hikes

A public hearing has been set for April 10 by the RTD Board of Directors to consider an across the board increase in District bus fares. The board will hear public testimony at that meeting and then hold a special session on Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. to set the new fare structure.

"We'll be looking toward a late April implementation date for the new fares," said Thomas Neusom,

newly-elected RTD board president. "We take these steps regrettably, but they are necessitated by inflation and other factors."

The board will be looking at increases for all classes of both cash and pass fares. Among the possibilities will be a five- or ten-cent increase in the basic 55-cent cash fare.

The board's action followed a report from General Manager Jack

Gilstrap, which pointed out that the Los Angeles area's annual inflation rate of 24 per cent (based on January's two per cent monthly increase) coupled with heavy farebox revenue losses due to February's rainstorms meant either consideration of a fare increase or immediate, severe service cuts.

"The District is facing a \$3.5 million shortfall through June 30 and even higher amounts for the next

fiscal year," Gilstrap told the board. "In budgeting for fiscal year 1980, we used a 12 per cent inflation factor, but our operating costs have spiraled right along with the unchecked rate of inflation."

"One reason for the deficit is a cost-of-living escalator clause in the District's labor contracts," Gilstrap explained. "The adjustments for labor are tied to the Consumer Price Index, which jumped two per cent in January. Averaged over the year, that's a 24 per cent jump, an impossible forecast a year ago."

Translated into actual figures, the District on March 1 paid its 6,500 contract employees a 27-cents-an-hour cost-of-living increase, instead of the 16-cents-an-hour originally projected.

At the same time, the District has watched the price of diesel fuel more than double in the last 12 months, rising 14.5 cents a gallon just since January. RTD uses more than 2.1 million gallons of diesel fuel per month.

Further aggravating the District's financial picture was the loss of anticipated farebox revenues as a result of February's unusually heavy rainstorms, Gilstrap said.

While District planners can anticipate that fewer riders will use District services in bad weather, the near-record breaking storms this season have kept hundreds of thousands of riders off buses. The result is a loss of approximately \$500,000 in farebox revenues for

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## Happy anniversaries

Utility-A Arthur Winston was all smiles as he was pinned by Carol Taylor at the Fifth Annual RTD Service Awards Presentation. Winston, who works at Divison 5, received an award to commemorate his 45 years of service to the District and its predecessor agencies. Winston was only one of 487 employees honored for their years of service and dedication to duty during two days of ceremony at District headquarters. Photos of all District employees who attended the ceremony begin on Page 5.



## TRIPPERS

### GOING UP

The cost of everything is going up these days and it seems that nothing is immune from the ravages of inflation. Not even vitamins. For the past 15 years, the District has provided vitamins for resale to employees and retirees at a cost of \$1.50 per bottle of 100. However, the cost to the District for the multi-vitamins has risen drastically.

As a result, starting March 1, the price for the vitamins has been raised to \$2.50 per bottle (which is still pretty cheap, as you know if you've priced any vitamins lately). The vitamins are available through the District's Benefits Administrator, Ed Paull, in the Personnel Department at District headquarters.

### PASS RECORD

RTD reached a new high in monthly pass sales in January, selling a total of 168,515 passes in all categories for revenues totaling more than \$2.25 million. General Manager Jack Gilstrap attributed the record bus pass sales to the recent fare increase in cash fares only, with pass prices maintained at the same level, and the District's program to increase the number of pass sales outlets for greater customer convenience.

### NEW ARRIVALS

Division 2 operator Bobby Stewart, Jr. has announced the arrival of his second child, a girl, named Jessica Marie. Born January 30, she weighed in at 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. She joins brother Bobby Lee, now nearly three.

Donald R. Youngman of Division 8 has a new face in his family, also, as little Brandon Paul, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces, joins six-year-old brother Denim and two-year-old sister Alisha.

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The temporary service reduction, caused when new technical California Highway Patrol regulations sidelined 60 of the District's older buses, has ended with all service fully restored. The buses, mostly 20- to 25-year-old equipment, were taken out of service when they failed to pass new CHP standards for steering wheel play.

### WINDFALL

A House-Senate Conference Committee approved a compromise windfall profits tax bill that included the Federal public transportation program as an eligible recipient of the revenues to be raised in the coming decade. The compromise would generate \$227-billion over the next 10 years. Of that amount, \$34.3 billion are earmarked for energy and conservation programs, including spending to expand bus and subway systems. When the President signs the bill, it will be retroactive to March 1, 1980.

### SKYROCKET FUEL

The average price per gallon that transit systems in the western United States paid for diesel bus fuel hit 79 cents per gallon in the fourth quarter of 1979, according to figures published in APTA's Quarterly Diesel Fuel Price Report. This represents a more than 450 per cent increase over the 1970 figure of 12 cents per gallon. Prices were about three cents per gallon lower in the east.

The report projected that diesel fuel costs will amount to more than 7.7 per cent of transit system's bus operation budgets in 1979, compared to 2.5 per cent in 1970.



## Division 5 poet finds inspiration waiting for him at every stop

*A university English instructor recently introduced to his class what he termed "one of the finest, most elegant lines of poetry in the English language."*

*"Walk with light," he quoted, then repeated softly, "Walk with light." Now, isn't that a wonderful thing to say to someone?"*

*The class agreed and wished to know the author.*

*"I suppose it's anonymous," said the instructor. "It's written on a sign at the intersection of Main and Fifth Streets."*

Humor aside, the above anecdote clearly illustrates that poetry is where you find it . . . even behind the wheel of a 25,000-pound bus.

Division 5 operator Wilfred G. Munroe has been driving a bus for the RTD for only four years, but he has been writing poetry for most of his 33 years. A native of Kingston, Jamaica, who spent two years in New York before making his home in Los Angeles 12 years ago, Munroe says he now gets most of

the inspiration for his poetry from the people he meets and events he sees while driving a bus for the District.

Munroe works Line 8 on a Baby Owl shift that has him going from Spring Street downtown to Lincoln Park at a time when people are heading home from work, going out for an evening on the town and heading home for the night.

"I really enjoy watching people and the way they interact with each other," says Munroe. "I get a sort of energy from them."

As a sidelight to his contact with the public, Munroe admits that he quite often finds himself involved with trying to help people with troubles, almost like a social worker on wheels. He says this involvement can range from helping someone find the right agencies to help them find work, or encouraging a young person to stay in school and get a good education.

"Sometimes I just listen to their problems and it helps them because they have no one else to talk to," Munroe says.

He realizes that none of the above is included as part of a bus operator's job specifications.

"I know it has nothing to do with the job, but I don't think the job is just to drive the bus," he explains. "I drive a bus because I like people and I believe that what goes around comes around."

Outside of his high school English classes, Munroe says he has had very little formal writing instruction. Most of what he knows or has learned about writing, publishing or marketing he has learned by studying the works and lives of writers he admires.

Among the writers and authors who Munroe lists as an influence on the development of his style are James Baldwin, Henry Clay and William Shakespeare. He continues to be a voracious reader, concentrating, he says, on books designed to help him "find out how other people work, why they are the way they are."

Like most creative writers, Munroe finds writing to be a product of inspiration.

"When the mood strikes, I write," he says. "I cannot just sit down and tell myself that now I will write a poem. I find writing to be a strange and different sensation. If I do not write when the mood strikes me, I find that I get very frustrated."

Munroe is currently attempting to pull together a collection of his poems to be published in book form and hopes to find an illustrator who can add some drawings to complement the poems.

When he is not working Line 8 or writing, he divides his time between his wife, Guadalupe, and two-year-old daughter, Shemeir, and studying for a degree in Public Relations at Pepperdine University.

One of Munroe's poems is reprinted here. "Sugar Plantation Sugar" was published in *New Voices in American Poetry* — 1979, a book compiled by the editors of Vantage Press. It developed out of thoughts about the difference in job structures between the ghettos and suburbs.

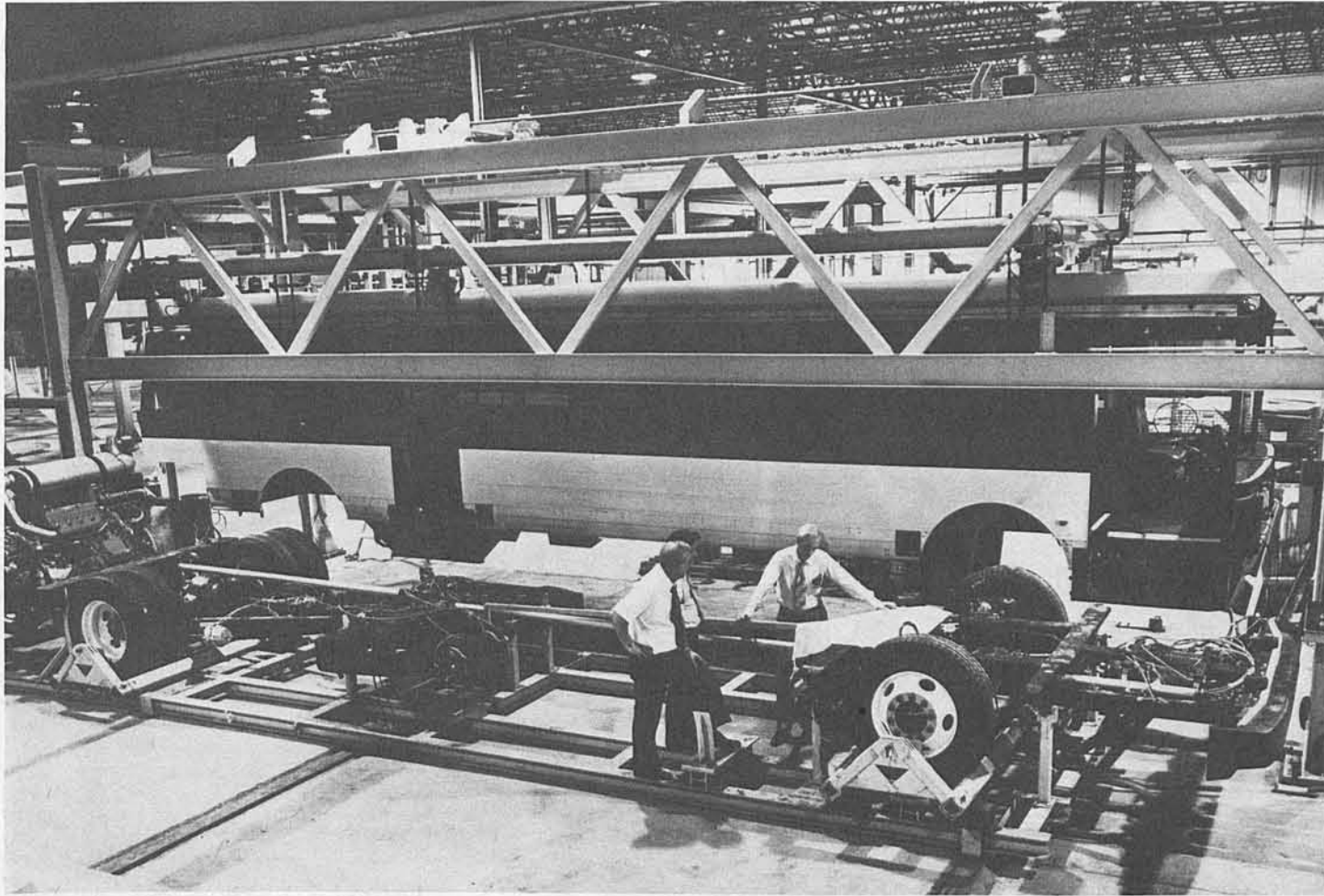
### SUGAR PLANTATION SUGAR

I was born dark as the night  
On an island far from all sight.  
Having no control over this situation  
I grew up on a sugar plantation.  
I grew and grew to become a man,  
Now look! look on the scars on my hands.

Was it by choice that breakfast, lunch and dinner was rice?  
Or is it because of this man Christ?  
Ho no! my Lord — he is not to be blamed.  
It is you and you who should be ashamed.

Look at my bones, peeping through my skin  
Or is it the mark from the bull's whip?  
I would rather not think.

Sugar is sweet, and so are you.  
The crack from the bull's whip would make you cry, too.  
I am crying, crying! Why am I crying?  
The question often ask.  
Have you ever been on a sugar plantation?  
Ho no, my Lord, you would rather die.  
However, we need the sugar.  
Sugar plantation, sugar.  
Sugar plantation, sugar.



They're on  
their way

The 230 Grumman-Flexible Advanced Design Buses, ordered by the District nearly one year ago, are now being pieced together by engineers on the assembly line at Flexible's Delaware, Ohio, plant. The first deliveries for the order are due later this month and will continue at the rate of six to eight buses per day until the order is filled, according to Michael Leahy, Assistant Director of Equipment Engineering. The entire production process is being overseen in Ohio by more than two dozen District mechanics, specially trained by the Equipment Engineering staff. The 25 inspectors will monitor quality control and insure that District specifications are met.

## Cynthia Kelly chosen Ms. RTD for Spring '80

Cynthia Kelly of Redondo Beach, who rides the buses wherever she goes, has been named Ms. RTD for Spring, 1980. A legal secretary with a downtown Los Angeles law firm, Kelly was selected from hundreds of RTD patrons, representing a cross-section of area bus riders, who submitted applications for the Ms. RTD competition.

During the three months of her reign, Ms. RTD will receive monthly passes valued at \$150 and good on any of the District's 200 local and express bus lines in Los Angeles County.

In addition, Kelly will receive a color portrait of herself from the photograph which will be displayed on all RTD buses.

"I became acquainted with the RTD when my car was damaged in an accident," Kelly explains. "The repairs took some time, and by the time I got it back I had found that the bus was a better way to go."

In addition to her trips to and from work, Kelly rides the bus to El Camino College, where she is studying to become a paralegal.

"It is always a pleasure to accord special recognition to those patrons who are living proof that an automobile does not have to come ahead of everything else," commented RTD Board President Thomas Neusom. "Cynthia Kelly is a fine example of how our patrons can become ambassadors of good will for the District."



## CU raises loan rates; offers new certificates

For the first time in its history, it looks like the RTD credit union will have to raise the rate it charges on loans. According to Credit Union Manager Howard Hoffman, the credit union is not exempt from the rising spiral of costs that are affecting everything, these days.

"Our costs of doing business continue to increase," he explains. "Until now, our regulatory agency, NUCA, has not had the authority to increase the maximum interest rate allowed on loans beyond the traditional 12 per cent per annum."

Hoffman points out that there is currently a bill before the Congress and, if approved by Congress and signed by the President, it would allow a maximum rate of 15 per cent per annum, 1.25 per cent per month on the unpaid balance. If the bill passes into law, Hoffman said the credit union will raise its rate on loans to that figure.

However, Hoffman stressed that Share-Secured loans would remain a bargain at only 9 per cent per annum.

Softening the blow somewhat, the Transit District Employees Federal Credit Union Board voted to approve the offering of Money-Market Certificates, which will pay the same rate and yield as Money-Market Certificates offered by the nation's savings and loans.

The certificates were offered beginning April 1 and will continue until further notice. Each certificate requires a minimum deposit of \$10,000 for at least 182 days. As with all Money-Market Certificate programs, substantial interest penalties will be applied if withdrawal is made early.

## Board elects president

(Continued from page 1)

years, and has served as an officer of the San Fernando Valley Board of Realtors for eight years.

In the field of transportation, she was a charter member and first chairman of Mayor Bradley's Valley Transportation Advisory Committee in 1972. Since 1974 she has been a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Rapid Transit.

Born and educated in the Chicago area, her volunteer activities have included the American Red Cross, the United Way, the Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. She and her husband operate a motorcycle business in the San Fernando Valley.

### ACROSS THE BOARD

## Hearing set for fare increase

(Continued from page 1)

February alone, Gilstrap noted.

Yet another factor has been soaring costs for public liability and property damage settlements, which have risen by nearly \$15 million over the last five years.

As most District employees are aware, RTD's operating funds come from only three sources: federal and state subsidies, and the farebox. The only element of that budget the District can control is the farebox.

In addition, the District is under a legal requirement to balance its budget annually, without the assistance of any contingency funding.

"We are forced to budget right down to the wire," said Gilstrap. "We have no mechanism to deal with factors like unprecedented inflation rates and the kind of revenue losses we sustained in February. By contrast, the cities, the county, the state and all municipal operators in the Los Angeles area have some sort of contingency fund available to cope with these kinds of problems."

The last fare increase was implemented on November 1, 1979, raising the base fare 10 cents, from 45 to 55 cents. The price of monthly passes was not affected at that time.



## Personnel satisfaction

There's something about the pending arrival of a new baby that makes people want to smile and everyone in the personnel and employment departments was grinning from ear to ear at the baby shower they threw for typist-clerk Hortencia Alatorre. Hortencia, preparing to cut everyone a piece of cake, works in the Non-Contract Employment Office. It will be her first child and is due in mid-April.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

### Moving up

**Rose Albergo**, from sheet metal worker to sheet metal worker lead.  
**Johnnie Amos**, from info clerk to super. tel. info.  
**Robert Andrus**, from st. shop clerk to truck driver clerk.  
**Henry J. Arrey**, from Mechanic "B" to equip. maint. instructor.  
**George Bedard**, from drafting tech. II to engr. technician.  
**Michael Brewer**, from information clerk to super. tel. info.  
**Rosemarie Cendejas**, from tel. infor. superv. to sr. sup. tel. infor.  
**Antonio Cortez**, from operator to oper. ex. supv. of V.O.  
**Joseph Derrick**, from operator to mechanic "C".  
**Dao X. Do**, from temp. mail/dup. clerk to temp. accounts clk.  
**Virginia Escobar**, from ticket off/rep. clerk to ticket clerk.  
**William Frederick**, from stock clerk to shipping clk.  
**Lola Gagner**, from inst/superv. to sr. inst. tel. infor.  
**Jose Garcia**, from stock clerk to building maint.  
**Milton Gaxiola**, from mechanic "B" to mechanic "A".  
**Stella M. Gomez**, from gen. clerk II to gen. clerk I.

**Carlos Gonzales**, from mechanic "B" to equip. maint. instructor.  
**Domingo Gutierrez**, from mechanic "C" to mechanic "B".  
**Earnest G. Heggins**, from mechanic "A" to equip. maint. supv. I.  
**Carlos Hernandez**, from mechanic "A" to equip. maint. instructor.  
**Santos F. Hughes**, from ticket clerk to ticket off/rpts. clerk.  
**Cathryn Hunsinger**, from operator to opr. ex. supv. of VO.  
**Harold Kelley**, from bldg. service supv. to temp. gen. services manager.  
**Michael Leahy**, from operations analyst to asst. dir. equip. engr.  
**Rosa S. Lee**, from payroll clk. to supv. control clk.  
**Dumurier Malone**, from mechanic "C" to mechanic "B".  
**Gary Miller**, from administrative analyst to Sr. administrative analyst.  
**Gary Miller**, from shipping clk. to stock clerk.  
**George Miyamoto**, from jr. stock clk. to stock clerk.  
**Manuel Montes**, from mechanic "A" to mechanic "A" leadman.  
**Frank Morales**, from utility "A" to laborer "A".  
**Frank Nelson**, from associate engineer to supt. facility & plan.  
**Brian Pearson**, from chief engr. bus facilities to dir. technical services.  
**Robert Pflughoft**, from operator to opr. ex. supv. of VO.  
**Richard Presnell**, from tkt. office and rpts. clerk to ticket clerk.  
**Charles Proctor**, from rel. eq. rec. spec. to building maintenance.  
**Willie A. Reese**, from mechanic "A" to mechanic "A" leadman.  
**Albert Reyes, Jr.**, from community rep. II to community rep III.  
**Sergio Romo**, from mechanic "B" to mechanic "B" leadman.  
**Richard Smith**, from operator to opr. ex. supv. of VO.  
**Judith K. Sorci**, from sup. control clk. to appl. control analyst.  
**Michael Stange**, from equip. maint. supv. I to equip. maint. instructor.  
**John Thomas**, from stock shop clk. to eq. rec. specialist.  
**Jose Villa**, from mechanic "C" to mechanic "B".  
**Pablo Villicana**, from junior stock

clk. to shipping clerk.  
**Eddie Wilkins**, from svc. attendant to jr. stock clk.  
**Bobby Williams**, from operator to oper. ex. supv. of VO.

**Forrest E. Hobson**, 24 years. Operator at Division 9.  
**Frances S. Lewis**, 37 years. Utility "B" at Division 5.  
**Horace Norie**, 33 years. Operator at Division 5.  
**James Scoggins**, 20 years. Operator from Division 18.  
**Carl J. Shaw**, 24 years. Operator from Division 2.  
**Francis L. Shea**, 33 years. Operator from Division 3.  
**Ernest P. Thommes**, 36 years. Operator from Division 9.  
**John E. Walker**, 20 years. Operator from Division 2.  
**Charles B. Warfield**, 28 years. Operator from Division 7.

### Shifting gears

**George A. Briggs**, 21 years. Utility "B" at Division 7.  
**Verana Dzierlatka**, 17 years. Ticket office & reports.  
**Joseph D. Gentry**, 37 years. Traffic Loader.  
**Abraham Griffith**, 26 years. Utility "A" at South Park.

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Even though credit unions have grown in assets and members, the idea of cooperation is still one of our cornerstones. The cooperative financial movement showed that the everyday working person could indeed borrow and repay money, without having to put up an arm and a leg as collateral. The idea of credit union savings and borrowing has really caught on. Today about 30 million members of 22,000 credit unions have amassed better than \$36 billion in total assets.

If you are looking for a friendly, cooperative place to conduct your financial affairs, use your credit union. You'll find fast, personal service by a staff that is truly interested in your financial well-being. After all, isn't that what credit unions are all about?

## CLASSIFIED

Employees and retirees of RTD may use this column free of charge. Ads will be limited to one per person per month and will not be held over for repeat. Ads should be submitted either typed or printed by the 14th of the month. Include your name, work location, company phone and home telephone numbers.  
 District policy prohibits ads for commercial ventures and such will not be published or returned. Send ads to Headway, Location 32, if you use company mail; or Headway, 425 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 via U.S. Postal Service.

- For sale, 1952 International pick up. 85 per cent restored. Just needs paint. Have invested \$1,500 and will sell to best offer. Call anytime, (714) 829-2752.
- Lot for sale near Crestline. Call Jim Smart anytime at 376-5465 for details.



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by Administrator, National Credit Union Administration

'BACKBONE' OF THE COMPANY

# RTD honors its long-term employees

What has 974 legs and has spent the last 7,880 years providing public transportation to the citizens of Southern California? The answer is simple, the 487 District employees who were honored during RTD's Fifth Annual Employee Service Award Presentation.

Held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 18 and 19, in the Board Room at District headquarters, the ceremony presented service award pins to those long-term employees having reached the milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or 45 years of service. (Yes, two

employees were actually celebrating their 45th anniversary with the District.) In all, 487 employees were saluted for their dedication to duty and their accumulated 7,880 years of service to the District and its predecessor agencies.

This year's seniority award for

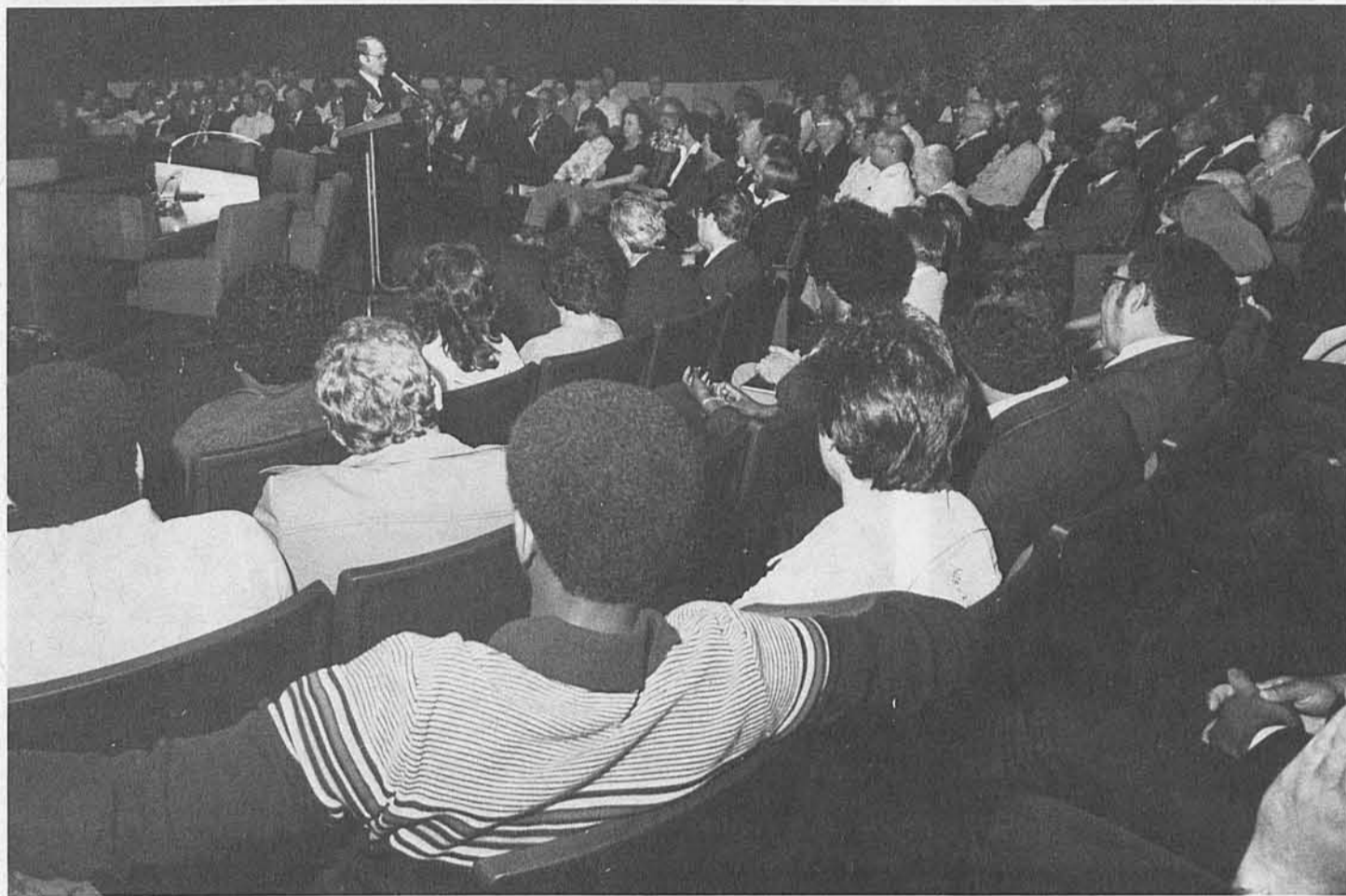
the most years of service was shared by Benjamin Mathis and Arthur Winston, both with 45 years of service behind them. Mathis, a Utility-A at District Headquarters, joined the Los Angeles Railway when he was 32 years old. Winston, who works at Division 5 as a Utility-A, is a 74 years young native of Castle, Oklahoma, who came on the property in 1934.

A further breakdown of the years of service shows seven employees with 40 years behind them, 15 employees receiving 35-year pins, five saluted for 30 years of service, 29 receiving 25-year awards, 151 who have put in 20 years, 62 honored for their 15 years of service and 216 receiving 10-year pins.

In a nearly hour-long talk to the employees at both award ceremonies, General Manager Jack Gilstrap offered congratulations to the award recipients, discussed the District's current financial picture and its prospects for the future and then held an informal question and answer session with the employees.

"I know you don't often hear it from your passengers or read it in the papers, but we have a very good operation here in Los Angeles," Gilstrap said. "We have our problems, but I don't think they are as bad, by comparison, as some of the problems facing other transit districts around the nation.

"And one of the reasons our operation is so successful is because of you people here today," he said. "You're not the kind of people who jump from job to job. Your dedication to duty, your tenacity and patience makes you the backbone of this company."



**CEREMONY** — A standing room only crowd jammed the District Board Room for the two-day Service Awards Presentation that featured an address by General Manager Jack Gilstrap. The senior employee with the District is Utility-A Bennie

Mathis, who received his 45-year pin from Gilstrap. After the ceremony, the celebrants were treated to cakes, cookies, juice and coffee in the Employee Cafeteria.

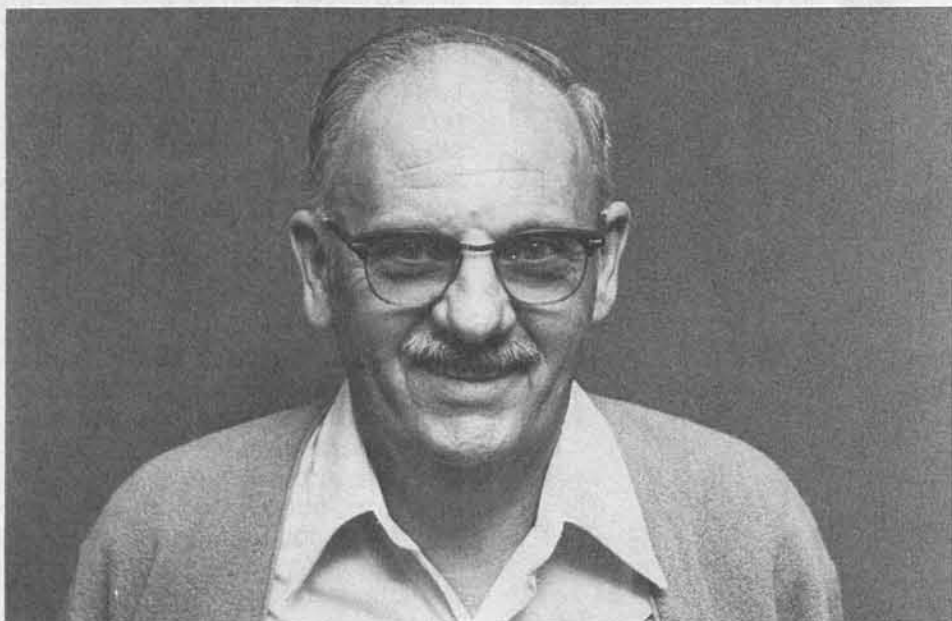




40 YEARS — George Michaels (left) and Operator Henry Morrissey received service awards for their four decades with the District. Michaels is Division Transportation Manager at Division 12



40 YEARS — Assistant Controller-Treasurer-Auditor Frank Carr, Jr. received a 40-year pin, also.



35 YEARS — Nels Hicks has something to smile about after all those years.



35 YEARS — Also garnering 35-year service awards ere (from left to right) Dale Mathews, James Oliver and William Boyett.



30 YEARS — Robert Bauer, a 30-year man, admires Thomas Tegtmeier's 30-year service award.



25 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Barbara Hagen, Frederick Gertsch, Charles Beatty, Glenn Nieman, Leslie Price, (second row) Angelo Arnone, Homer Apel, John Donovan, William Packard, Ken Rogers, (third row) Edison Patrick, Alfred Celentano, Harold Buchen, Thaymon Guinn, Milton Epperson, Edwin Culley.



25 YEARS — (left to right) Roy Williams, Hugo Segletes, William Watson, Napoleon Pearson, Teichi Namatame.



20 YEARS — One of the 151 District employees who received service awards for 20 years of service was General Manager Jack Gilstrap, being congratulated by Manager of Employee Relations John Wilkens (left).



20 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Carroll Tinker, John Womack, Benjamin Weathersby, Gilbert Alvarado, Wilmer Shumake, (second row) Thomas McLemore, Lonnie McChristian, Arthur Lennen, Thomas Vaughn, Willie Tibbs, Joseph Wise, (third row) Curtis Watt, W.C. Stephens, Jr., Paul Tumminieri, Clarence Henderson, and Frank Delgado.



20 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Eugene Cure, Gordon Fitzpatrick, Gilbert Weaver, Maurice Williams, Clarence Williams, (second row) Houston Campbell, William Sermons, Robert Smith, Bruce Smith, Robert Monday, Hubert Hayes, (third row) Joaquin Pinela, Walter Fujumori, Horace Omahundro, Miguel Algarin, Ronald Weckbacher, Frank Richardson.



20 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Alejandro Bigno, Jose Limon, Rudy Tapia, Leroy Brown, Freddie Hardemin, (second row) Charles Smith, Elstonn Burnley, Ronald Dellibori, Melvin Keith, Edwin Haas, Louuis Edenhofer, Eddie Brown, Bernard McKeon, Jerry Long, (third row) Don Cornish, Moris Fox, Walter Gates, Julian Johannes, Francis Walsh, Frances Bateman, Rudolf Maul.



20 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) John Martin, Salvador Gonzalez, Robert Shade, Dewitt Duke, Alan Kauffman, Bennie Harvey, (second row) Jethro Hassen, Robert Grady, Lonnie Anders, Willie Greene, Willie Hooker, Jr., Harry Standberry, William Payton, (third row) George Shinn, Harold Reid, Fredrick Hall, Willie Jones, James McCarns, Frances Handa.



20 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) George Johnson, Charles Fisher, Carelton Ray, Robert Breer, Fred Macklin, Charles Watson, (second row) Elmer Lewis, Reyad El Fattal, Jack Bailey, David Cruz, Lloyd Gambol, Andrew Davis, William Freeman, (third row) George Nahra, Frank Seddio, Donald Womble, Jeray McCoy, Walter Wadlington.



20 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Howard Johnson, Wallace Mellander, Wilbur Gilchrist, Clarence Wilson, Charlie Daniels, Eugene Hamilton, (second row) James Endicott, Charles Dello, James Cade, Don Scoggins, James Bernard.



15 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Bob Hoskins, James Madden, John Calwell, James "Pee Wee" Patton, E.L. Paternoster, (second row) Warnie Seals, James Duke, Rudolfo Clautier, Donald Leaver, Lorenzo Fernandez, Frank Huston, Melvin Purkeypale, Prewitt Kinerman, Wardel Moorehead, Robert Wright, Norman Baker, (third row) Charles Cooley, Wray Deitrich, Harvey Nix, Gilbert Gutierrez, James Thomason, Charles Mahoney.



15 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Marcus Johnson, Patricia Baker, Eva de la Hoya, Jeannette Sprowls, Hazel Eremento, Charles Higgins, (second row) Aaron Rummage, Martin McGinnis, Harry Payne, Henry Thomas, Jack Farley, (third row) Charles Mosby, Bobby Bray, Thomas Labaya.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Doris Brown, John Walker, Adolpj Saenz, Michael Esquivel, Rhodney Shorts, (second row) Lee Miller, Paul Stephens, Earnest Kirkwood, Antonio Moreno, Quincy Bushs, Clyde Corbitt, (third row) James Wells, George Burrell, Harold Hollis, William Stelly, William Jackson, James Fluellen.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) James Mouldin, John Burns, Randall Moore, Tommie Johnson, Napolian Parker, (second row) Richard Carbone, Louis Williams, Santiago Lopez, Robert Scott, Lawrence Mitchell, Clifford Ellison, (third row) David Chavez, Donald Parrish, John Legans, Paul Reed, George Douglas, Samuel McReynolds.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Jean Williams, George Sylva, Alt Rodriquez, Johnny Pruitt, William Reason, (second row) Michael Staley, Billy Harris, Armando Barrios, Warren Moore, Arthur Fukumoto, Louis Butler, (third row) James Reynolds, Manuel Castro, Bobby Hairston, Walter Cooley, Daniel Campos, Robert Hillard.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Handy Weathersbee, Gerald Lacey, Dudley Weddaburne, John Bailey, Althonia Stokes, Curtis Jones, (second row) Henry Holmes, Lawrence Galloway, Issac Bishop, Joseph Bailey, Antonio Palacios, Carlos San Juan, Adolph Zavate, Donald Corton, (third row) Efrain Perez, Rafeal Espionosa, Martin Elam, Larry Smith, James Adams, Royce Brown.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Gerald Alexander, Gabriel Merritt, John Moore, W.E. Harrison, Cecil Evans, Charles Evans, Charles Harrell, (second row) Eddie Gustin, Stanley Owens, Benny Fox, Richard Everett, Carlton Marshall, Robert Waters, John Kirkham, Patrick Hart, (third row) Andrew Campbell, Jake Billinger, R.B. Guiterrez, Carlos Garcia, Harold Peace, Allen Harders.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Robert Shelton, Oneal McDaniels, W. Meybro, James Henry, Daniel Wilson, Gerald Riley, (second row) Horace Bashor, Donald Durfee, Edward Lavizzo, Lee Criss, Sam Wolfe, Daniel Simon, Robert Owens, (third row) Melvin Domaloan, Cleveland Joiner, Ludey Omo, Henry Woods, Otis Knapper, Titus Daniels.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Roman Morales, Frank Morales, Larry Rauch, William Dorsey, Leonard Clark, Mary Martinez, (second row) Caldwell Manley, Marrin Watts, Theral Golden, Jose Delgado, A. Lee Wilson, David Brooke.



10 YEARS — (Front row, l-r) Dorothy McOwen, Amy Hirashima, Berteliciaa Joseph, Laverne Harris, (standing) Rogers Tiffany, James Bennett.



## COMMENDATIONS

**(Editor's note: Quoted below are excerpts from just a few of the hundreds of letters of commendation praising the actions of District operators which are received each month from passengers by the Customer Relations Department. All such letters are reported to the operator by his division manager and a copy of the letter is placed in the operator's personnel file).**

**James H. Price, Jr., Line 869:** Mr. Price passed by a car that had caught on fire at the corner of Artesia Blvd. and Peck Ave. in Manhattan Beach. He quickly came to the aid of the distressed owner and proceeded to extinguish the fire, which was located in the engine compartment and had engulfed the front of the car. Mr. Price then inconspicuously left and carried on his duties as if nothing had happened. But a lot did happen! Mr. Price risked physical injury and prevented a total loss of the car. His unselfish efforts warrant attention, especially when you consider the apathetic state we are in these days. Let's give credit when and where credit is due.

**Ira Luttrell, Line 608:** I have been commuting on the 608 from Pacific Palisades to the downtown area for almost three years now and for the past two years (at least) Mr. Luttrell has been driving the last morning bus. He has never been late, as far as I can remember, and he has a singular feeling of responsibility to his passengers because he knows this is the final bus of the morning. If that 608

doesn't run, none of us get in to work! He is the soul of dependability, as well as being gracious, courteous and a fantastically safe and careful driver, even under the most horrendous conditions of storm and rain. He is very resourceful, too, finding new routes when storms or accidents have wiped out normal roads. He is a credit to the RTD and should be honored!

(This letter was submitted by several passengers on the 608 — Ed.)

**J. W. Sanders, Division 18:** Please convey my sincere gratitude to your driver for turning in my wallet and other personal belongings, which were found on his bus. It was my own stupidity that caused me to lose the bag, but I was much relieved to get the credit cards, drivers' license, keys, etc. back. My compliments to Mr. Sanders for his honesty and to the RTD for recruiting drivers of his calibre.

**Ricardo Perez, Line 436:** I am one of the millions who depend on RTD for transportation. I observe the bus drivers' reactions to stress situations. The majority are fine people, truly concerned with making our rides pleasant, but one driver is outstanding in his relationship to the public. He is polite, considerate, helpful and friendly. He always gives the proper information in a polite way. He is considerate for the safety of his passengers. His driving is smooth and he observes traffic signals and handles difficult situations with ease. I hear other passengers marvel about his abilities and how pleased

they are to ride on his bus and I share these feelings.

**Walter L. Graham, Division 2:** I seldom use the RTD for transportation so do not know much about routes and schedules. However, I recently had occasion to ride the bus and the young man who was the driver was especially helpful in answering my questions and directing me. As we traveled I noticed he was just as patient, friend-

ly, helpful and courteous to all passengers. Surely, he must make a lot of friends for RTD.

**Tony Pompa, Line 65:** He is really most pleasant. He greets each passenger with a smile and a "good morning," and adds, "how are you today?" He does not make one feel he is doing a favor driving passengers to their destinations. I can depend on him to get to my job on time.

## Above and beyond . . .

*(Editor's note: Every so often, while poring through the stacks of commendation letters received by Customer Relations, we come across one which relates an incident that clearly goes above and beyond the call of duty. Division 8 operator Jim Gleason recently received such a letter from Sergeant Kent P. O'Steen of the Inglewood Police Department. Sgt. O'Steen's letter tells it best).*

"My father had been in the hospital for several weeks with advanced stages of cancer. On Friday afternoon my mother called me from the hospital to tell me my father had taken a turn for the worse and was near comatose. I immediately left work and headed for St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank.

"On the interchange from the San Diego to the Ventura Freeway my 1964 Volkswagen broke down. My thoughts at that time were, 'Why me? Why now? My father is dying and my mother needs my presence.' I left the car and began looking for a call box. It was 3:15 p.m. and all I could see was bumper to bumper traffic.

"Moments later one of your coaches pulled adjacent to me and the driver (Gleason) asked if he could assist with a gesture to step aboard. As I boarded I briefly explained that I was looking for a call box, why, and stated my father's circumstances. Mr. Gleason asked what hospital my father was in and then offered to take me there, explaining that it was not out of his way (he was deadheading downtown). Noting the coach was void of any fares I immediately accepted. Within minutes Mr. Gleason dropped me off in front of the hospital with kind words for my father's health.

"Mr. Gleason got me to the hospital in time to have a few last words with my father, who slipped into a coma late Friday night and passed away early the following Monday.

"All too often, we who deal with the public become callous to one another's needs. Our society seems to be filled with people who lack compassion and it is a real pleasure to find the contrary in these difficult times. Mr. Gleason's consideration to originally ask to assist and then to extend his understanding attitude is most gratifying. He is certainly an asset to your agency."

## EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

### Efficiency, courtesy pay off for RTD trio

Three more employees, whose efficiency and courtesy have proven to be important factors in meeting the needs of the District's increasing ridership, have had their names added to the RTD's honor roll of outstanding employees.

Honored at a meeting of the RTD Board of Directors were Information Operator Sue Wilber, Operator Lonnie Anders and maintenance employee Charles Cooley.

Sue Wilber was no stranger to the award ceremony. She has worked for the District for 12 years and this marked the third time she has been named an outstanding employee. Sue says the secret to her success is that she always tries to be courteous, efficient and patient. Her kindness and warm personality have resulted in numerous letters of commendation from the public she serves. Because of her pride in her work and the fine job she does, her supervisors refer to her as an asset to the District.

With more than 4,500 potential candidates to choose from, selecting an Operator of the Month is always a tough task. However, Division 2's Lonnie Anders clearly stands out in a crowd. In the 20 years he has worked as an operator, he has been assigned to only two divisions, Division 1 and Division 2. Some of the RTD's heaviest lines operate from those divisions. Yet, since 1959 Lonnie has had only seven missouts and 11

incidents of sickness. He has had only three chargeable accidents, and all of those were prior to 1962. He has amassed 70 merits and has never been charged a demerit.

As the Storekeeper at Division 3, Charles Eugene Cooley always performs his duties in a professional manner, going above and beyond what is merely required,

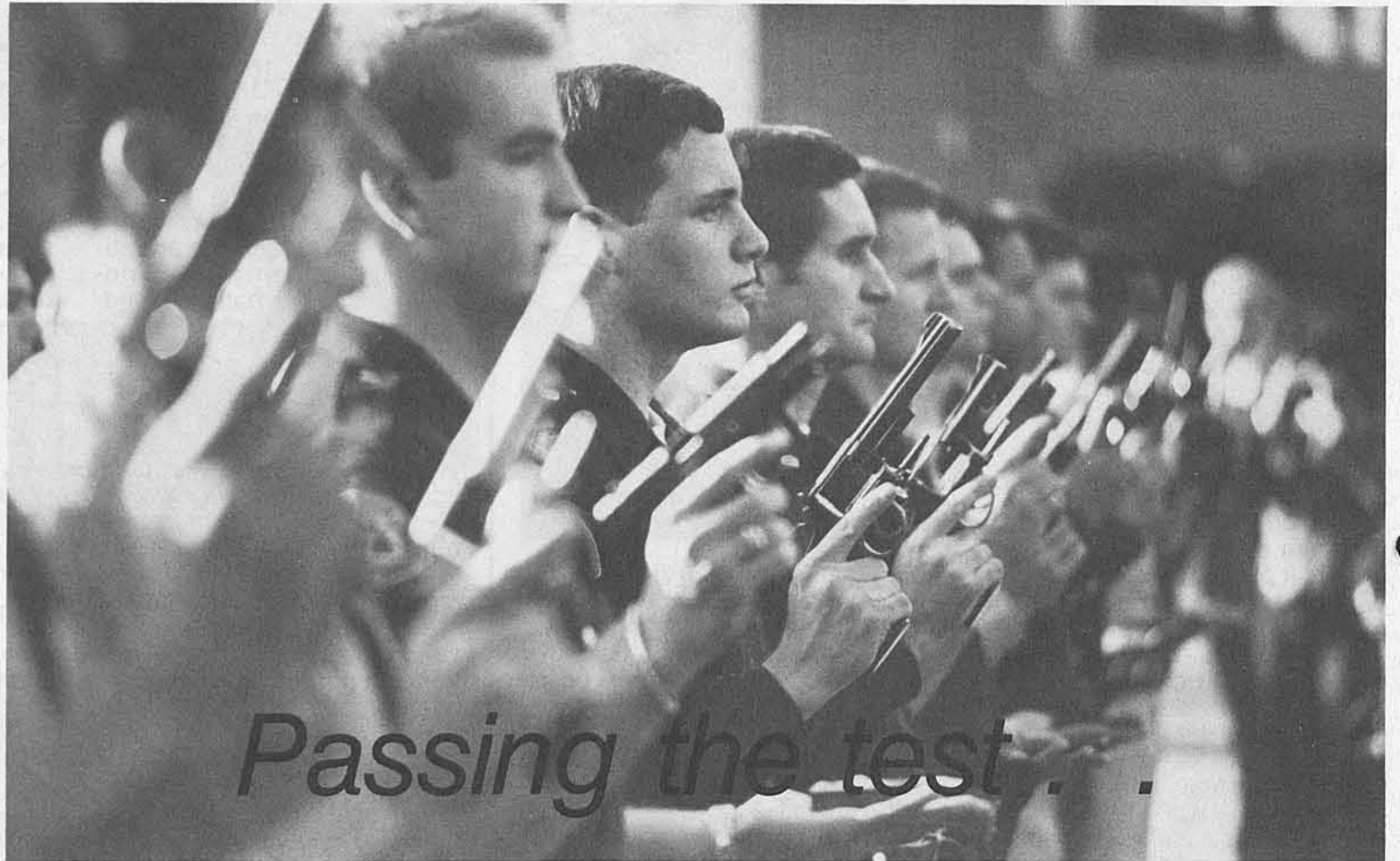
according to Division Maintenance Manager Jack Eich. Cooley gets along well with everyone and his explicit and precise procedures are valuable in training new employees. Charles puts in an exceptional amount of overtime to keep the shop in order. And, he has proven to be very helpful in procuring parts from South Park.

As a new sidelight to the Employee of the Month program, the District's Marketing Department is taking out full-page advertisements in one issue of TV Guide each month to honor the Operator of the Month. The ads are part of a program to enhance the public's awareness of the calibre of employees working at RTD.

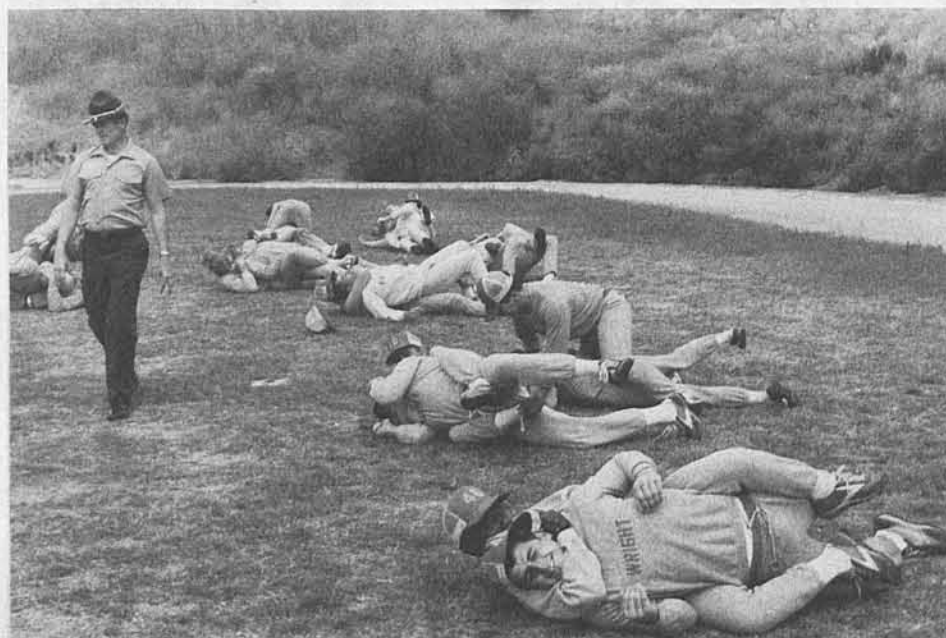


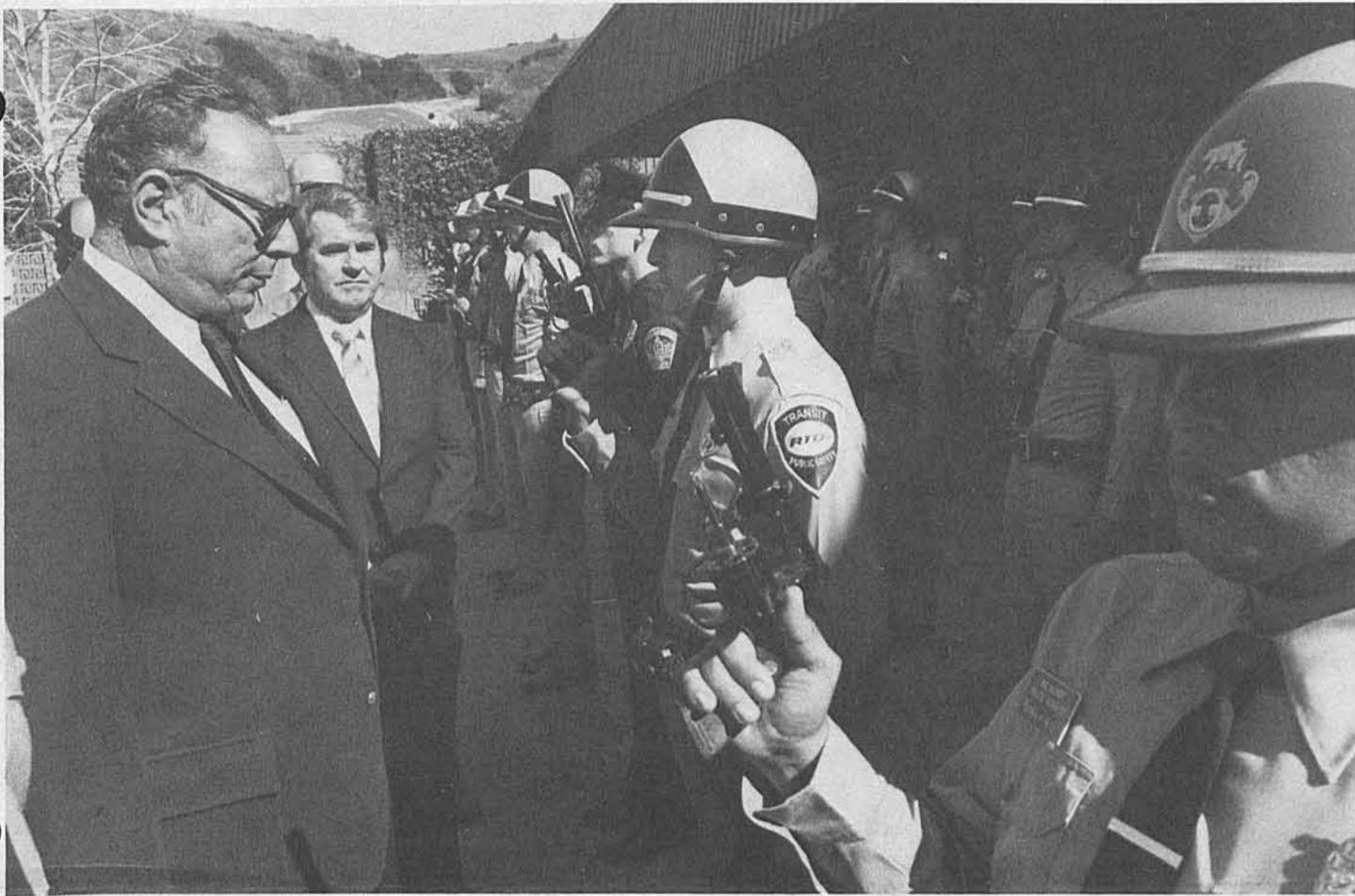
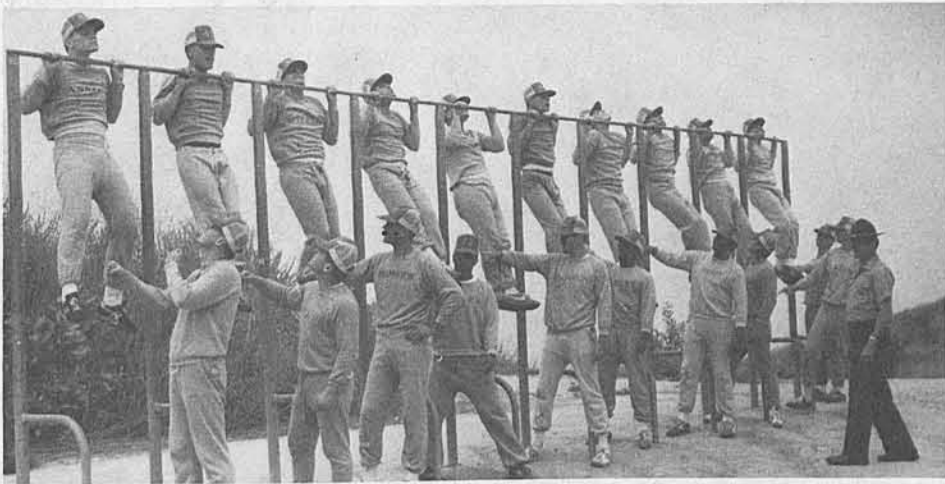
**OUTSTANDING** — Director Mike Lewis (left) presented Certificates of Merit to (left to right) Sue Wilber, Charles Cooley and Lonnie Anders as (back row, left to right) Manager of Customer Relations

Bob Williams, Division 3 Maintenance Manager Jack Eich and Division 2 Transportation Manager Larry Johnson look on. The outstanding employees for the month also receive a \$50 check.



When a law enforcement officer takes to the streets to protect and to serve the public, he had better be fit — and that includes physically fit. Members of RTD's Security Department who have completed the grueling POST course can attest, not only to the rigorous academic schedule, but to the strenuous physical conditioning candidates are put through. Students never walk anywhere on the hilly campus at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, they run. The rope climb not only tests the candidates' strength, but their nerves as well. Developing their hand-eye coordination on the firing line are RTD's Craig Gunn (left) and Ted Ford. A good deal of time is spent in weaponless defense, learning to subdue suspects who may be unarmed but still resisting arrest. Candidates are taught to never use more force than is required by the situation. The students are also given a chance to experience how the suspect will feel (bottom of page) as they pair off and take turns practicing the rear stranglehold and takedown. If you look real close you can spot RTD's Nick Cayafas. He's playing the arrestee in the fourth group from the bottom, his cap is on the ground near his head.





Under the watchful eyes of an ever-present tactical instructor, a group of peace officer candidates practice pull-ups, perhaps the most difficult physical task for most to overcome. Above right, on the pistol range, RTD's Ray Thomas (far left) takes target practice. Thomas, by the way, was among RTD's first qualified peace officers in addition to being the oldest man (47) ever to complete the POST training at Rio Hondo. Just when the candidates feel they are at about the end of their string physically, they are ordered to get their gear in top shape and fall in for inspection. It's a full military-style inspection that examines everything from the shine on the candidate's shoes to the cleanliness of his gun barrel. As RTD Director of Security Jim Burgess (second from left in photo at left) looks on, the Chairman of the Department of Public Safety at Rio Hondo, Alex Pantaleoni, takes a hard look at RTD peace officer candidate Gilbert Rascon. In addition to checking appearance, the candidates are grilled by Pantaleoni on many diverse classroom topics they have studied, like why is a uniform important or when does an officer have the right to arrest someone. If the candidate can not answer a question, he is likely to find himself working overnight on a special report about that topic. Once the inspection is completed, the candidates get a few moments to confer with their chief before returning to classes. They use the time to discuss problem areas they may be having or clear up questions that may arise. Below, Burgess chats with (from left to right), Donald Sanchies, Gilbert Rascon, Floyd Shaw, Ranulfo Delgadillo and Dennis Young. Naturally, every college has a mascot, and the Basic Police Recruit Academy is no exception. Of course, the academy came up with the mascot you might expect, and nicknamed it Chow Hound.

## Course stresses exercising the long arm of the law

It's 608 hours of intense instruction covering most major areas of law enforcement, but what most graduates of the 15-week long Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) course recall most vividly is the time spent in physical fitness and defense tactic classes.

The RTD is currently in the process of upgrading its security department to full Peace Officer status. By now, about 30 per cent of the District's security force has gone through the training, held at the Basic Police Recruit Academy on the campus of Rio Hondo College.

While physical fitness training takes up only about 15 per cent of the time spent at the academy, it is by far the toughest hurdle prospective graduates have to overcome. As a result, it is not uncommon to hear comments like "I'm glad that's over," or "I thought I was gonna die!"

The training includes 61 hours of lifetime fitness training (push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups and the like), 12 hours on principles of weaponless defense, eight hours on armed suspect weaponless defense and four hours on baton techniques.

No special consideration is given to females or those who may be older, fatter, or softer than the rest of the class. It may be only a small part of the overall training, but the physical fitness tests are perhaps the hardest for the students to pass and cause the most appre-

hension. Everyone has to pass the same tests, or face being washed out.

Classroom training covers topics ranging from crowd control to investigating poisonings to writing reports. But, it is the training done outside the classroom — like the rope climbing and the obstacle course running — that help to shape the officer and build confidence. After all, when was the last time you saw an out-of-shape criminal?



## Happy Birthday

The RTD prides itself on the service it provides to its patrons, but the District recently went out of its way to honor one of its riders. But, then, it's not everyday that a longtime, faithful bus rider celebrates his 100th birthday. Mark Birchall (left), who was born March 13, 1880, was given an impromptu party at a bus stop in La Canada as he waited for his regular Line 434 bus. In addition to newspaper and TV reporters and photographers, there was (from left) Director Charles Storing, who presented Mark with a bus pass good until his next birthday; Division 3 operator Orville Hatfield, who regularly transports the spry centenarian and tipped the District to the pending milestone; and RTD News Bureau Rep. Kathy McCoy, who baked a cake for the occasion.



## RECREATION NEWS

# It's time to shape up for summer's rec events

Summer is just around the corner and that means it's time to start shedding that excess winter weight to get slim and trim for warm weather activities. Besides, this may be your last chance to take advantage of the special Jack La Lanne European Health Spa discount offer for RTD employees.

District employees can join for \$130, which is more than a 50 per cent discount since the spa has raised its one-year membership price. In addition, the plan has been expanded to include spouses. If your wife or husband wants to join, and you don't, all they need do is show their employee ID card (bus pass).

But, you better not procrastinate. The discount offer expires May 1.

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If you have been thinking about having SelectTV installed in your home, you can do it now and save the first month's rental of \$19.95. For a brochure about the service, contact the Recreation Department.

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For the sights, sounds and pageantry of Queen Elizabeth's Merrye Olde England, the Renaissance Pleasure Faire is the place to go. For six weekends beginning April 26 and including Memorial Day weekend, you can venture into the past at a discounted price of \$5.50 for adults and \$2.25 for children.

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Confront the deadly menace of Jaws, thrill to the Wild West Stunt Show, get into the act in Airport '77, experience the Battle of Galactica. Where? At the Univer-

sal Studio Tour during RTD's two weekend visits. Tickets are available for either April 12-13 or April 19-20. Your discount price is \$4.50, good for any of the four days.

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If you could not afford to attend the Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York, but marveled at the beauty of figure skating that was televised, the Recreation Department has an event you won't want to miss. The 1980 Olympic Figure Skating Tour will feature exciting performers from the National, World and Olympic skating championships. This special event will be offered on Saturday, May 3, at the Forum. The regular \$10 adult tickets will be available for \$9, while children under 14 years of age are \$5.

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It may be touch and go if the rainy season doesn't know when to quit, but we will still plan to have a Spring Golf Tournament. This year's event will be held on new turf at the San Dimas Canyon Golf Course on Saturday, May 3. Entry fees will be \$10 per golfer and carts are \$9. The first starting time is 11 a.m. Get your bid in early, a lot of swell prizes are at stake.

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Ready or not, baseball action is coming early this year as RTD Day at Dodger Stadium will be held on May 18, a Sunday, beginning at 1 p.m. And what a bill! The Dodgers will be playing host to the World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates. Regular \$3.50 tickets are available for \$3 so take the whole family out to the ballgame.

It's not too late to sign up for the Seafari, the Amtrak train excursion to Sea World in San Diego, on Sunday, May 4. Tickets are \$22 per adult and \$11 per child (under 12).

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Okay, all you high-rollers. By popular demand it's Las Vegas time again. Plan now to join our group, leaving May 30 and returning June 1. This trip will feature hotel accommodations at the Orbit Inn, located within walking dis-

ance of the downtown area. A prime rib dinner, two breakfasts, \$2 worth of nickels and an optional tour of the strip are included in the \$59.50 price (based on double occupancy). Act fast on this one as space is limited. All money is due by May 2.

Keep an eye on the Recreation Boards at your work locations for more details and information about upcoming events. And, if you have any questions or wish to make reservations, call 972-6580.

## Don't forget about uncle

It's April and for millions of working Americans that means one thing — income taxes are due. Tuesday, April 15, is the deadline for filing your 1979 returns and the RTD Legal Department has some sound advice for all District employees.

Assistant General Counsel Suzanne Gifford suggests that employees be wary of advice they receive on tax matters unless that advice comes from qualified tax consultants or lawyers who specialize in tax laws.

As an example of what can happen as a result of bad advice, Gifford cited the recent case of Newport Beach streetsweeper who was prosecuted and convicted in Federal court on income tax evasion.

During his trial, the streetsweeper testified that he had been told during a meeting of Your Heritage Protection Association, a taxpayer's protest group, that he did not have to file tax returns because the money he received for his salary was not backed by silver and, therefore, was not legal tender.

Apparently, this advice was incorrect for the judge sentenced the streetsweeper to one year in prison, a \$2,000 fine, five years probation and required him to perform 200 hours of community service.

So remember, file your returns no later than midnight, Tuesday, April 15, and if you have any questions or doubts about your return, seek expert advice. It could save you a lot of time and trouble in the long run.

## HEADWAY

Published monthly for the employees and retirees of the Southern California Rapid Transit District.

Editorial input and suggestions welcome. Deadline for receipt of editorial copy is the 14th of each month. Send black-and-white photographs only, please. Requests for photographic coverage of District events must be preceded by 72 hours notice.

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