

New signs provide more information

In an effort to provide more bus information to the public, the District has begun the enormous job of installing new bus stop signs at more than 20,000 locations.

The program calls for replacing the familiar RTD triangle target sign with a new rectangular sign. The new signs also incorporate, for the first time, bus line numbers and destinations at each stop.

Board of Directors President Mike Lewis declared the program a major milestone in providing RTD service information to new riders as well as regular patrons.

General Manager John Dyer, said installation of the new signs is expected to be completed by this spring, in plenty of time to be of use to the large numbers of visitors the city is expecting this summer. "Riders unfamiliar with RTD service will be able to quickly discern the destination of our buses and the kind of service provided in their neighborhood," Dyer said. Less than 5 percent of RTD's current

signs provide this level of information.

Dyer said the new signs will denote whether a bus line operates on a limited stop or express service, days of operation, and whether the service operates during rush hours only.

The new signs are also expected to reduce the need to refer to RTD maps and timetables and in calling for information, Dyer added.

The new sign is made of aluminum with a white background. The RTD trademark with red, orange and gold stripes is displayed on each side, with the bus line's destination and service qualifications printed in black.

As many as 18 different bus lines can be identified individually on a single post.

Dyer said that during the development of the new signage program an extensive evaluation was made on the feasibility of adding scheduling and route information.

"We concluded that in a system as large as RTD's which covers 2,280 square miles, it would not be practical to go beyond line and destination information," he said, "due to service changes that occur regularly."

"We want a signage program that requires only minor revisions when we make service changes," he explained, "in order to keep maintenance cost at a minimum. We believe the new signs are colorful and informative and convey the fact that the RTD is a modern and efficient public transportation system."

The new signage program was developed by the RTD Marketing Department and independent designer John Miyauchi.

Modagraphics, of Rolling Meadows, Ill. was awarded the \$557,182 contract to manufacture and install the signs, with RTD staff to assist in some phases of the installation.



NEW SIGNS—Stops and Zones Supervisor Pete Serdienis puts the finishing touches on one of RTD's new bus stop signs.

HEADWAY



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Employees purchase Olympic token sets at reduced prices

The first complete sets of RTD's unique commemorative bus tokens were purchased in a special ceremony January 27 by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee Transportation Director William Forsythe.



ONE OF A KIND—Elizabeth Bush of Pasadena displays her Olympic spirit by wearing a necklace she fashioned out of RTD 1984 Olympic commemorative tokens. A longtime public transit enthusiast in Los Angeles, Mrs. Bush often visits RTD bus divisions where she meets with employees and shows off her handiwork. The bus tokens she used in her latest creation are being sold to help pay for extra RTD bus service during next summer's Olympics in Los Angeles.

Sales of the Olympic souvenir sets is expected to help pay for special RTD bus service during this summer's Olympic games.

While the public can purchase the sets for \$24.95 at all RTD Service centers and selected retailers in the area, District employees are being offered a special purchase plan at considerably reduced prices. Purchased through the Employee Activities Department, employees can buy up to ten sets each for a total of \$14.38 per set. The sets contain 24 individual coins depicting each of the Summer Olympic events from archery to yachting. The reverse side of each of the half-dollar sized coins is engraved with the official "Stars in Motion" logo.

Attractively packaged in blue faux-leather gift boxes, employees can purchase their sets using VISA, Mastercard, American Express, cash, check or money order.

Checks and money orders should be made out to SCRTD. The sets may either be picked up in person, or Employee Activities will forward them to individual work locations through the use of special Transportation Department runs.

Minted near Memphis, Tn., at the Green Duck Mint in Hernando, Mississippi, these tokens mark a new direction in marketing transportation services for Olympic events. The District expects to reap at least \$3.3 million in token sales revenue to help offset the cost of operating special bus service for the Summer Games.

Under the terms of an agreement between the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee and Marketcom, Inc., of St. Louis, RTD has exclusive rights to market Olympic bus tokens in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Diego counties. Each token is worth one 50 cent base fare, but coin collectors are already

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please see this month's Recreation News for an Olympic Token Set order coupon.

reporting 100 to 300 percent price increases for the complete sets outside the region.

"The District is readying a fleet of 550 buses for this purpose (the Olympic Games) at a cost of nearly \$14 million. But not a penny of that will come from the taxpayers," Board President Mike Lewis promised.

"The bulk will be generated by premium fares charged only on the special Olympic buses, and the balance will be raised through the sale of 300,000 RTD Olympic bus token gift sets and sales of a \$10 daily 'Gold Pass' that will be good for unlimited rides on both RTD Olympic buses and regular service next summer," Lewis added.

"We believe the RTD token set is one of the finest and most valuable souvenirs available for the 1984 Olympics. We expect a tremendous response from the public and from employees, and reluctantly we must limit sale to 10 sets per employee," commented General Manager John Dyer.

Further information on employee purchases of Olympic Token sets may be addressed to Employee Activities Department, Location 32, or extension 6580 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily.

Wet weather needs careful driving techniques

Driving in wet weather requires operators to exercise greater caution due to the increased risk posed by wet conditions. One particularly hazardous phenomenon prevalent in wet weather is hydroplaning. Each year, numerous traffic accidents occur which involve District buses that hydroplane.

Hydroplaning is a condition which results as water penetrates between the tire and the roadway and builds up sufficient pressure to raise a portion of the tire off the road. The tire is suspended by the water until there is actually no contact between the tire and the roadway. Once this point is reached, the front tires start to slow down due to the resistance exerted by the water. As can be expected, hydroplaning results in a reduction or loss of vehicle steering and braking capability. In a hydroplan-

ing condition, the vehicle is out of control and efforts to regain control are generally unsuccessful. In effect, the operator has now become a water skier, only with less control and far greater danger.

Many environmental factors influence hydroplaning including the depth of the water, roadway texture and grooving, tire air pressure and tire tread pattern and condition. However, another common factor unrelated to the environment is also needed to produce this condition—driving speed.

Surprisingly, complete loss of traction can occur at relatively slow speeds of 30 mph and less. At higher speeds the potential for hydroplaning is even greater. Buses traveling at speeds of between 45 and 50 miles per hour, which may be considered cautious on wet freeways, are very likely to

experience temporary episodes of hydroplaning. When the operator brakes or turns sharply under these conditions, the bus may slide, fishtail or skid into an adjoining lane or off the roadway. If this happens, the operator should avoid locking the wheels and should steer in the direction the rear of the bus is moving.

Many drivers falsely believe that hydroplaning only occurs in standing water or deep puddles. In fact, it takes very little water to hydroplane a vehicle. NASA studies have shown that less than 1/4 of an inch of water is all that is needed to produce hydroplaning.

There are two kinds of hydroplaning . . . dynamic and viscous. What we've been talking about so far is dynamic . . . the buildup of water between the tires and the roadway with increased speed.

Viscous hydroplaning occurs when there is a thin film of lubrication on the roadway. This film can be any mixture of oil, water, fuel, dust or other contaminants. It can cause a total loss of control at very low speeds . . . even 5 mph or less. The onset of this type of hydroplaning is exceedingly deceptive and its consequences can be devastating, especially when buses slide off the roadway and into curbs and sidewalks.

We all want to ensure the safety of our passengers, employees and the public. Being aware of the hydroplaning phenomenon and controlling speed at critical points is a big step in that direction.

It seems that the best and simplest advice for avoiding hydroplaning is the same as for driving in wet weather — slow down and adjust to prevailing conditions.

Deferred compensation: extra income for retirement years

If you have postponed planning for your retirement because it all seems so complicated and cumbersome, then maybe it is time you looked into the benefits available to you through the Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan. Under this plan, each payday a portion of your wages, specified by you, is automatically set aside in an account for later use as additional

income during retirement. The amounts you agree to defer plus any investment earnings are allowed to accumulate free from current Federal and State income tax. Your investment is taxed only as you withdraw funds from your account after retirement, when presumably you are in a lower income tax bracket. In addition, because the deferrals are deducted

from gross pay, participation in the Plan results in decreased current withholding taxes.

A simple example reveals how this plan might benefit you. Using the current interest rate provided by the lowest earning of the four investment alternatives available, an employee who deferred just \$50 per pay period would in 20 years have accumulated over \$78,000 for use in retirement years. Of course, the actual amount that accumulates depends on the amount deferred each pay period, and the prevailing interest rate of the investment alternative selected. While no one can guarantee what interest rates will be in the future, participation in the Plan is preferable to the traditional savings accounts where deposits are made in after-tax dollars, and the interest earned is taxed on an annual basis.

As mentioned, the plan allows you to specify the amount deferred as best suited to your needs. This amount, however, must be at least \$15 per pay period and may range as high as \$285 per pay period or 25% of your earnings, whichever is less.

Plan enrollment, as well as changes in deferral amounts, are accepted four times each year: on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 date only.

Deferrals may be discontinued at any time by submitting a written notice to the Administrative Office.

Under a special "catch-up" provision, an employee may be eligible to contribute up to \$15,000 annually during the three-year period preceding normal retirement. This provision is valid only if the employee has deducted less than the maximum amount allowable after January 1, 1979. To find out if you qualify, please contact the Administrative Office at the number given below.

Currently, there are four investment alternatives available. These are briefly summarized below along with the annualized earnings rates for the first nine months of 1983.

1. Short-term investments which are limited to direct issues of the United States Government, U.S. Government agencies, Bankers Acceptances, Certificates of Deposit or prime-rated commercial pap-

er. The return for the nine-month period ending September 30, 1983, was 17.83% (includes price increase of current holdings of Ginnie Mae Certificates).

2. The Partners Fund, which is a no-load (no sales charge) mutual stock fund. For the nine-month period ending September 30, 1983, the return was 16.60%. This return figure includes both dividends and changes in share price.
3. Real Estate loans secured by deeds of trust on residential California real estate. No property will be financed in an amount greater than 80% of appraisal value. The return for the first nine-months of 1983, 13.67%.
4. A savings account with a savings and loan association. Individual employee balances up to \$100,000 are insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The nine-month return for 1983 was 10.26%.

The funds you accumulate in your account will be paid to you upon retirement in one of several ways. If your account is less than \$10,000, you will receive the full amount in a single lump sum payment. If your account is greater than \$10,000, you may elect to be paid in either a single lump sum or by consecutive monthly payments. In the event of an employee's death, the funds in his/her account will be automatically distributed to the designated beneficiary(ies).

Funds deferred into the Plan may not be withdrawn by employees until retirement, except in the event of severe financial hardship or medical emergency. If an employee elects to take this option, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the Plan for a period of 12 months following a partial withdrawal, or 24 months in the case of full withdrawal of funds.

Individual employee accounts are maintained by the District Treasurer's Office. Each participating employee will receive a statement of account twice a year. This plan qualifies under Internal Revenue Code Section 457.

Any questions regarding the Employee's Deferred Compensation Plan should be directed to Mel Marquardt, who may be reached on extension 6593.

Metro Rail

Station art will reflect communities

The RTD Board of Directors has approved procedures for the inclusion of art-work in the RTD Metro Rail subway stations, General Manager John Dyer recently announced.

The newly established Art-In-Transit policy is an integral part of the District's design program for the rail transit system linking downtown Los Angeles with the San Fernando Valley.

"Station art is an important facet in bringing an individual identity to each of the Metro Rail stations," Dyer said.

"The characteristics and atmosphere of the communities surrounding each station will strongly influence the art work which will become part of the transit system through this program," he added.

The art policy provides for a maximum of one-half of one percent of the station structure cost to be allocated to the art program. A budget ceiling will be established for each of the stations, Dyer said, noting that the cost will probably range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per station.

Among the art forms that may be used are included paintings, sculptures, engravings, mobiles, murals, videos, holograms and drawings. Computers, rotating art displays, and sound and light displays will also be considered.

The architect for each of the stations will make a preliminary determination of suitable locations for art, as well as types of media that are appropriate, Dyer added.

A permanent, five-member committee will be appointed to review artists' qualifications and make selections. The committee members will be selected from art and art-related fields. Dyer said that the

architect for each station will be added as a sixth member to the committee as the final selections are made for each station.

'83 ridership figures highest ever recorded in District history

RTD carried more bus riders in 1983 than in any year since the District was created two decades ago.

An estimated 445.6 million passenger boardings were recorded in calendar year 1983. Ridership was up 22.7 percent over 1982 and more than double what RTD carried a decade ago.

RTD defines one boarding as each time a person gets on a District bus. Passengers going to and from a single destination represent at least two boardings.

Several other RTD ridership records were achieved in 1983. The District recorded 1,536,000 boardings on an average weekday last November. On Monday, Nov. 21, 1983, RTD set a single day ridership record of 1,627,000 boardings. RTD bus ridership topped 1.6 million boardings on other days in October, November and December. For the year, weekday ridership averaged 1,433,800 boardings, both all-time highs.

"By the end of 1984, RTD could be carrying as many as 1.8 million weekday boarding passengers as new bus riders discover that public transit with its low fares is the best bargain in town," said RTD Board president Mike Lewis.

This short quiz may help you live longer

From "Lifegain" by Robert F. Allen, Ph.D. with Shirley Linde

This life expectancy quiz is similar to those questionnaires used by doctors, medical centers and insurance companies to calculate a realistic picture of probable longevity. This quiz will give an approximate potential of your life expectancy as you live today. If you don't like the results, change your life style where you can.

The figures used in this quiz will measure your risk in relation to your environment, stress and general behavior.

On the national average, white females live 78.1 years, while all females average 74 years. White males average 70.5 years, while all others average 65.3.

To start; Write the number 72. Then continue to add or subtract as instructed:

Personal facts:

- If you are male, subtract 3.
- If you are female, add 4.
- If you live in an urban area with a population over 2 million, subtract 2.
- If you live in a town under 10,000 or on a farm add 2.

If any grandparent lived to 85, add 2.

If either parent died of a stroke or heart attack before the age of 50, subtract 4.

If any parent, brother or sister has (or had) cancer or a heart

every ten years alone since age 25.

Lifestyle

- If you work behind a desk, subtract 3.
- If your work requires regular,

If you are happy, add 1. Unhappy, subtract 2.

If you have had a speeding ticket in the past year, subtract 1.

If you smoke more than two packs a day, subtract 8. One to two packs, subtract 6. One-half to one pack a day, subtract 3.

If you drink the equivalent of 1 1/2 ounces of liquor a day, subtract 1.

If you are overweight by 50 pounds or more, subtract 8. By 30 to 50 pounds, subtract 4. By 10 to 30 pounds, subtract 2.

If you are a man over 40 and have annual checkups, add 2.

If you are a woman and see a gynecologist once a year, add 2.

Age adjustments:

If you are between 30 and 40, add 2.

If you are between 40 and 50, add 3.

If you are between 50 and 70, add 4.

If you are over 70, add 5.

Add up your score to get your life expectancy in years.

Any questions about this, or other articles, send them to me c/o the Personnel Department.



TO YOUR HEALTH

By Elia Hager, RN
Visiting Nurse

condition, or has had diabetes since childhood, subtract 3.

If you earn more than \$50,000 a year, subtract 2.

If you finished college, add 1.

If you have a graduate or professional degree, add 2.

If you are 65 or older and still working, add 3.

If you live with a spouse or friend, add 5.

If you live alone, subtract 2 for

heavy physical labor, add 3.

If you exercise strenuously (tennis, running, swimming, etc.) five times a week for at least a half-hour, add 4. Two or three times a week, add 2.

If you sleep more than ten (10) hours each night, subtract 4.

If you are intense, aggressive or easily angered, subtract 3.

If you are easygoing and relaxed, add 3.

Brown and Horn win bid whist tourney

The finals for the second Annual District-wide Bid Whist Tournament were held at the Biltmore Hotel Friday, November 18. After a long preliminary elimination, the top 5 teams advanced to the finals. The winners were from Division

3218, Barry Brown and Larry Horn. Second place was captured by Robert Andrews and Lester Shephard of Division 3 and 2. The winners will receive a trip to Las Vegas on one of the District's future trips.

New LAPD program Unusual traffic ticket sparks interest

When operator Richard Surface, from Div. 8, was pulled over by an LAPD officer, at Ventura and White Oak in the West Valley, on Nov. 22, 1983, he probably thought he was going to receive a speeding ticket. Or, at least, a traffic warning. Fortunately he was wrong. LAPD traffic officer Wright had observed Surface displaying "Conspicuously safe and courteous driving" habits. When Wright had finished writing out the ticket, Surface discovered he had been issued a notice to appear for two free tickets to the Universal Studio Tour. To say the least, Surface was, in his own words, "overwhelmed" by the experience.

According to the LAPD officer in charge of the unique program, Officer Bruno Tonin of the West LA Traffic Division, everyone, including the traffic officers who hand out the special notices, really enjoy it. "This is such a change for our officers that they really get a charge out of it. It's an interesting break in routine for them to stop someone and hand them what is, in effect, a prize instead of a violation ticket."

"BRAINCHILD"

The Safe Driver Recognition Program was the brainchild of promoter Jerry Sherman, who, as a civilian, first brought the idea to LAPD in 1982. Now a member of LAPD's Reserve corps, Sherman is

still involved in the program putting together contributors. In addition to Universal Studios, Disneyland, 20th Century Fox, and Warner Brothers have all donated entertainment services to the program. Last Thanksgiving Ralph's Markets even donated 1,000 turkeys to be given away to safe drivers.

NO TAX DOLLARS

As Tonin points out, all of this is accomplished at no direct cost to the city. "Since each of the contributors donates their goods or services, and pays to have the citations printed, there is absolutely no cost to the city or taxpayers," Tonin said.

When the program was inaugurated in September 1982, the police department didn't know how it was going to be received so they started out on a small scale, in West Los Angeles only. Between September and December that year they handed out about 700 of the Safe Driver tickets. In 1983 the program went city-wide giving out almost 4,000 citations in the same four month period. "We don't want either our officers, or the public, to get burned out on this," commented Tonin, "so we only run the program for the holiday season each year."

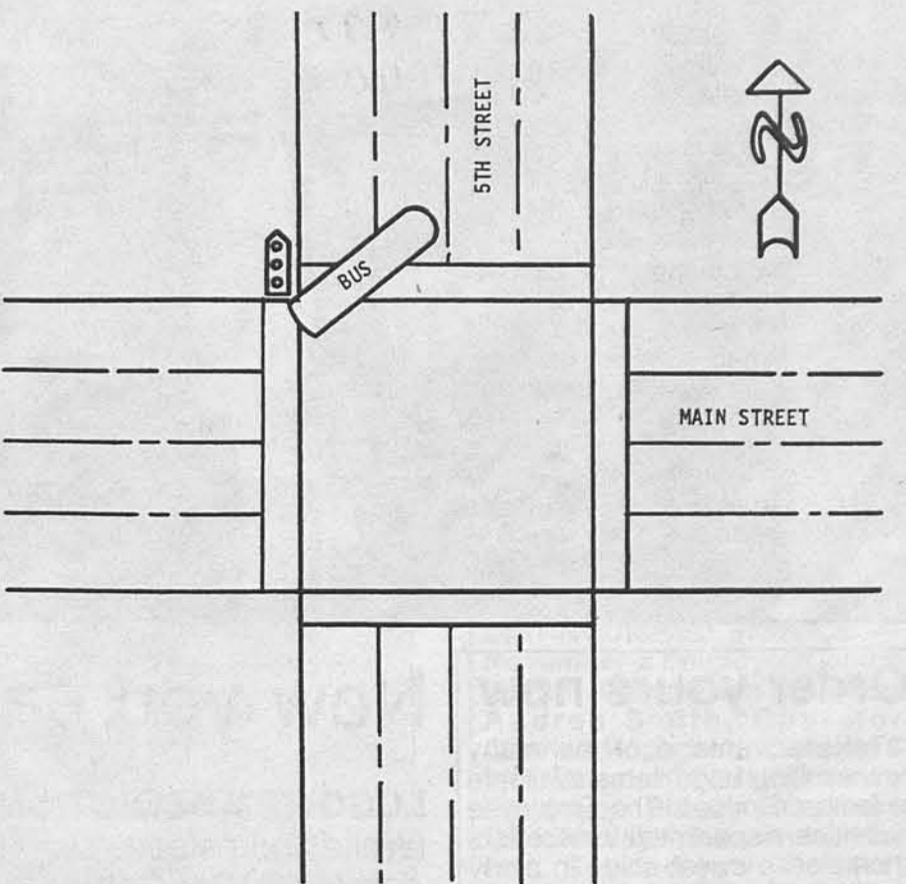
So, who knows? Christmas this year may even include a present from the police department.



You be the Judge

Operator Statement:

I was on Main Street proceeding to make my left turn onto Fifth Street when I noticed that the street maintenance department had two westbound lanes blocked. The police officer noticed I was having a problem making the turn and attempted to guide me around the corner. While following his directions the left rear corner of the bus collided with the traffic signal, damaging the left rear corner marker light of the bus.



Due to the police officer also being a professional in the field of traffic control, he should have been knowledgeable of the length of the bus and its capabilities of turning, and the operator should have had the confidence in the police officer so as to follow his instructions. Therefore this accident is judged non-preventable.

Answer:

RECREATION NEWS

If you're looking for things to do with the kids or yourself during the upcoming Easter holiday, don't despair. The Employee Activities Department has scheduled a variety of events to help you get through the week.

The **Universal Studios** tour is an excellent way to start the week off. April 14 and 15 the entire family can go for only \$8.00 per person. Regular admission is \$11.50 for adults, \$8.50 for children. First tour departs at 9:30 am and the last tour departs at 4:00 pm, daily.

After seeing how major movies are made, plan on visiting **Marine-land** while these great savings are available; only \$3.25 per person. This is a considerable savings over the regular adult admission of \$9.50 and \$6.85 for children. The reduced admission is valid April 14 through April 22.

Now it's time to race the rapids on the West's only white water rapids ride, challenge the ten-story tall Thriller and experience the ultimate roller coaster ride all in one day. Where? **Magic Mountain**, of course! With adult admission prices at only \$8.50, you can save \$4.45 on each adult admission from April 14 through the 22nd.

We also have tickets for two

Dodger's games during Easter week:

Dodgers vs. San Francisco, Sunday, April 15 at 1:05 pm. This will be Salute to Olympics Day. See former Olympic greats as pre-game ceremonies spotlight upcoming Olympic activities and baseball's historic involvement with them.

Dodgers vs. San Diego, Sunday, April 22 at 1:05 pm. This will be Visor Day. A free Dodger's visor to all fans when the Padre's visit Dodger Stadium.

\$5.00 reserved seats for \$4.00.

The Spring concert season is getting under way and it's time you were making your plans to attend. Confirmed artist's booked at press time are:

April 25 — Adam Ant at the Universal Amphitheater. \$15.00 Orchestra seats for \$14.00.

May 4 & 5 — Patti LaBelle at the Universal Amphitheater. 7:30 pm performances. \$25.00 tickets for \$24.00.

May 25 — Jennifer Holiday and Peabo Bryson at the Beverly Theater at 7:30 pm. \$19.50 tickets for \$18.50.

Be sure to check the recreation

bulletins and 'What's Happening' for additional dates as they are confirmed.

Hear the beat of more than one hundred tapping feet in the hit musical "42nd Street" now playing at the Schubert Theater. Employee Discount Days are Friday, May 11 at 8:30 pm with \$40.00 Orchestra seats for \$37.00 and Sunday, May 13, at 2:30 pm with \$35.00 Orchestra seats for \$31.50.

May 11 and 13 — **Dodger's vs. New York**. Helmet Weekend. Free Dodger's souvenir helmet to all youngsters 14 and under.

May 16 — **Dodger's vs. Philadelphia** at 7:35 pm.

May 20 — **Dodger's vs. Montreal** at 1:05 pm. Ball Day. A free baseball to all youngsters 14 and under.

For information on an employee activity, event or logo items, please call 972-6580 from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Olympic Token Set Order Form

Please send me _____ set(s) of RTD Olympic token sets at \$13.50 per set, plus 88¢ tax, for a total of \$14.38. (Limit 10 sets per employee)

Payment enclosed \$ _____

Please charge my credit card:

VISA Mastercard American Express

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Type or Print:

Name _____ Badge No. _____

Dept./Div. _____ Telephone _____

Send this form with payment, via interoffice mail, to:

RTD Employee Activities
4th Floor, Headquarters Bldg.



Order yours now

Take advantage of the many new exciting Logo items available at fantastic prices. The Employee Activities department now offers short-sleeve sweat shirts in many fashion colors; nylon unisex running shorts in red, black, or white; long sleeve sweats in navy and white, sweat pants to match navy and white tops; tee shirts; scratch pads; mugs, gym bags and caps. You must come in to appreciate the selection. All available through the Employee Activities Office, 4th floor of the Headquarters building, Ext. 6580.

Now you can shape up in RTD style

LOGO ITEM SELECTION—From left to right in the photograph above: **Frances Rosano** (White short sleeve sweatshirt, \$8, and matching sweatpants, \$7 and Gatsby Olympic cap at \$7.) **Pat Coble** (Black Jersey, \$6) **Dennis Gary** (RTD tie, \$1) **Tom Swann** (RTD cap, \$5 and black running shorts, \$7) **Suzanne Rothlisberger** (Striped T-shirt, \$5.50 and white sweatshorts, \$6) **Sharon Sterling** (RTD cap, \$5 and Employee Activities T-shirt, \$5.50) **Edith Goff** (Short sleeve black sweat-shirt, \$8, white running shorts, \$7 and RTD scratch pad, \$3.50) **Olivia Jimenez** (Shortsleeve pink sweatshirt \$8 and RTD coffee mug, \$5) **Rosalyn Gladney** (Visor cap, \$4, red Jersey, \$6 and white sweat shorts \$6) **Cathy Martin** (Navy blue sweatshirt, \$9, Ladies Employee Activities T-shirt, \$5.50 and Navy sweatshorts \$6) **Adrienne Rogers** (RTD cap, \$5 and magenta sweatshirt, \$8) and **Duane Johnson** (Navy sweatshirt, \$9 and Navy sweatpants, \$7)

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



RECOGNITION — Pension and Insurance Clerk Lucille Torres was named the Personnel Department's Employee of the Quarter for Fall Quarter 1983.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE — February's Employees of the Month were: Operator Ralph Stone from Division 16 (front left), Maintenance employee Luis Esparza and Information Operator Marie Tervalon. Second row, left to right: Don Karlson, acting Division 16 manager, Director Ruth Richter, General Services Manager Anita Allen, General Manager John Dyer and Customer Relations Manager Bob Williams.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE — January Employees of the Month were: Division 5 Maintenance Employee Theodore Collins (front left), Information Operator Richard Davidsohn and Operator Ernest Seehoffer. Second row, left to right: Director Nick Patsouras, Division 5 Maintenance Manager Mel Purkeypille, General Counsel Richard Powers, acting as General Manager Pro-Tem in John Dyer's absence, Audrey Ortiz, Division 8 Manager and Customer Relations manager Bob Williams.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE — December's Employees of the Month, from left to right: Information Operator Patricia Potter, Operator Marshall Long from Division 8, and Division 6 Maintenance Employee Joe Williams. Director George Takei is at the far left. Second row, left to right: General Manager John Dyer, Division 8 Manager Audrey Ortiz, Division 6 Maintenance Manager Ray Kunkle and Customer Relations Manager Bob Williams.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE — November's Employees of the Month: Information Operator Andrea Smith, Operator Charles Pope from Division 5 and Division 1 Maintenance Employee Sidney Benjamin. Director Jay Price stands at far left. Second row: General Manager John Dyer, Division 1 Maintenance Manager John Adams, Division 5 Manager Ralph Wilson and Customer Relations Manager Bob Williams.

RETIREEES

RETIREEES — February retirees included Division 7 Transportation Manager Joseph Bukowski (38 years) shown in the center, Donald E. Smith (20), Vernon E. Marye (25), Oliver Walker (38), Napoleon R. Pearson (29), Walter J. Sattiewhite (35), George B. Shinn (24) and Harold L. Sooner (23). Also shown are: General Manager John Dyer and Director Nate Holden.



RETIREEES — January retirees included: (L-R) George Pappas (38 years), Loarin T. Altig (28), Jean Betty Johnson (35), Robert L. Flemming (38), Romaldo G. Alvarado (39), Louis Keelin (27), Carlton O. Johnson, Sr. (27), Louis J. Edenhofer (24), James L. Brandon (26), Marcus L. Drumwright (36), Frederick A. Gertsch (30), James E. Monroe (24), Charles E. Dello (24), Marcelino A. Espinoza (23), Robert E. Blair (30), Roy A. Perry, Jr. (23). Also shown are Director Charles Storing (far left) and General Manager John Dyer (center, at rear).

RETIREEES — December's retirees are all shown here. From left to right, they are: Clevester Young (38 years), Ralph D. Hamilton (30), Norman L. Brown (12) and Lendal W. McWatters (26). Also shown are General Manager John Dyer (left rear) and Director Marvin Holen (right rear).



RETIREEES — November's retirees included: (left to right) Maurice R. Sklarew (24 years) and his wife, Sylvia, and Glenn J. Powell (12) and his wife, Frances. Not shown: Jackson Ridge, with 27 years of service. Director Gordana Swanson and General Manager John Dyer.

Metro Rail News

Unique joint development agreement means huge savings

Over \$30 million in construction cost savings are expected to be realized as the result of a recent joint development agreement reached between the District and Parklabrea Associates. The agreement, the first to be reached on any of the Metro Rail stations, concerns construction of the proposed subway station at Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

The joint development agreement calls for construction of the station offstreet, on the northeast corner of Wilshire and Fairfax on property provided to the District at no cost.

RTD's Board of Directors approved the agreement in principle in October and expect it to be followed by a comprehensive contract once more information regarding the subway station's design is available, said Board President Mike Lewis.

"This is the first involvement on the Metro Rail project of a private firm in a joint development venture with the RTD," Lewis said. "This shows RTD has learned from other new rail systems where these types of agreements have been developed."

RTD General Manager John

Dyer said that the agreement with Parklabrea Associates is the first of a number of joint development contracts the District hopes to enter into with other developers along the subway alignment.

He also said the agreement contains elements the District plans to negotiate with other developers, such as provisions for parking and station entrances for private development.

"By entering into a joint development agreement with Parklabrea

Associates, the RTD can move the subway station from beneath Wilshire Boulevard to privately-owned land, thus saving millions of dollars in land acquisition, as well as reduce the adverse effects construction would cause in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard," Dyer said.

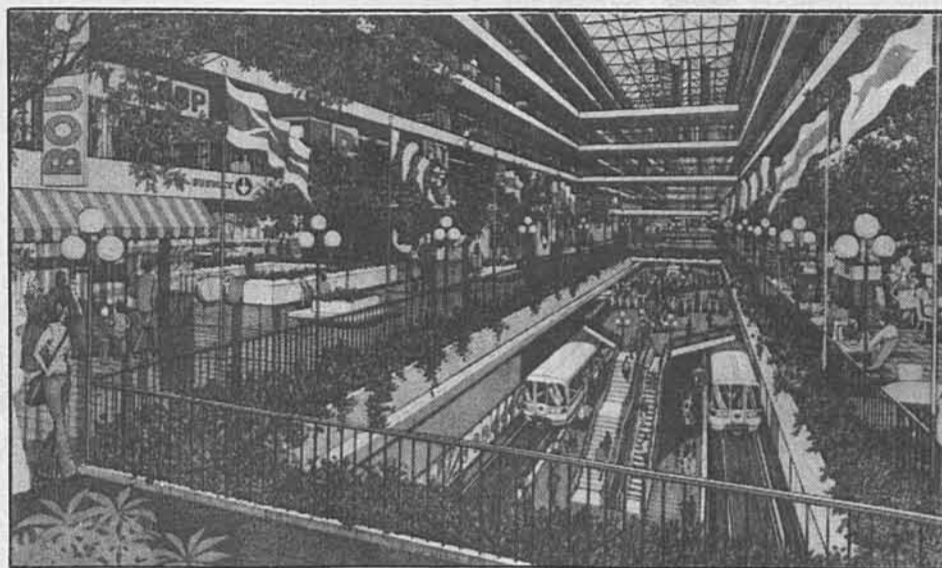
Major elements in the agreement include RTD's acquisition in fee simple of a portion of the May Co. property and subterranean easements for subway tunnels at no cost for the location of the 600-foot

long subway station. Parklabrea Associates also will pay the District \$2 million over 10 years toward the construction cost of the station. In addition, easements will be provided at no cost to RTD for two entrances to the station from Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

"A unique feature of this agreement is that Parklabrea will set aside up to 20,000 square feet of enclosed storage space for 15 years for any fossils unearthed during station construction," Dyer said. The General Manager noted that the District hopes that by moving the station away from its originally-planned site at Wilshire and Curson Avenue, the likelihood of encountering fossils in the area will be reduced.

"RTD worked with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History to ensure any findings are protected," Dyer added.

"This innovative arrangement is a great benefit to everyone," Dyer said. "The RTD should save millions in construction costs and the impact of paleontological resources will be minimized. Most importantly, the people of Los Angeles will benefit from the revitalization of an important part of the city, which is supportive of the land use plans in the area," Dyer concluded.



JOINT DEVELOPMENT— *The artist's conception above is just one of many possible station designs to be considered under this and future joint development agreements.*

Open letter From the General Manager

Dear Employee:

With the hectic holiday season behind us, we can now look forward to the new year. 1984 should be an exciting and progressive year for the District with the participation in the Summer Olympics, the beginning of construction of Metro Rail, and the implementation of TRANSMIS 11. I hope the year is exciting and progressive for you, too.

Personal problems, however, can often stop or slow down progress — both for you as an individual and for the District as a whole. The District's Employee Assistance Program, administered by the Holman Consulting Corporation, can help you overcome those personal problems. The EAP can also help you keep the new year's resolutions you may have made to either quit smoking, lose weight, or even manage your money more wisely.

Services provided by the EAP, at no cost to you, include short-term crisis intervention, problem assessment, and if necessary, referral for longer term counseling. The telephone numbers for the EAP Helpline are (213) 708-7790 or (714) 532-1341. You can call collect, if necessary.

I hope that you and your loved ones enter the new year in good health and harmony. For more information on the EAP, call the Personnel Department or your union office.

Sincerely,
John A. Dyer

Three new ways to learn Spanish

Three types of Spanish language training programs are currently available through the Employee Development Department.

The first is specifically designed for operators and consists of a handbook of Spanish phrases and an accompanying cassette. This program is designed to help bus operators learn common Spanish words and phrases to assist Spanish speaking passengers. Operators learn key words and phrases in a short period of time and with a minimum amount of effort. Students receive a 24-page booklet and may check out cassette tapes from their division instructor. The booklet begins with simple words and gradually builds up to phrases giving instructions and directions in Spanish. By using the tape in conjunction with the booklet, operators are able to hear and repeat the Spanish phrases until, through practice, they master them.

A recent survey shows this program, instituted in March 1983, has been very well received at most of the divisions. Instructor J. Bernard at Division 7, reports that 80-90 people have taken the program from his division alone. "The response from those who have gone through the program has been very positive," Bernard said.

Those desiring a more detailed language program may want to take advantage of one of the other types available through the Employee Development Department. One program is a series of cassettes and work books. An extensive program, it teaches spelling and grammar in addition to vocabulary.

The third program in the series emphasizes conversational Spanish, and, because it has no written material, is easy to learn while driving or at home.

"The diversity of jobs held by employees at RTD requires a variety of learning programs in order to

meet the needs of individual employees who desire to learn Spanish," comments Director of Employee Development Byron Lewis.

These programs can be checked out by calling the Employee Development Department at extension 6379.

GUESS WHO?

Olivia Lopez, from the Headquarters garage, was right. Our latest Guess Who? was Art Garlick. Art works in the Stationery Department, seeing to it that we all get the paper necessary to keep the District going. Garlick's also a representative of BRAC Local Lodge 1315. Olivia wins two tickets to the undersold event of her choice through the Employee Activities Department for her correct guess.

This month's mystery guest should be a little bit more difficult to identify. Taken when he was just five months old, this photo, 33 years later, still shows two of his outstanding characteristics. The eyes have remained pretty much the same (although we assume they have grown a bit with age) as has the liquid escaping his lips; he's still known to drool on occasion. He's easy to find, as long as you look anywhere in the District except his office, and we all see his handiwork every month. It doesn't even matter what location you work, virtually everyone in the District has run into him at

least once. Can you Guess Who?

Remember, send your best guess to Headway, Location 32. Be sure to include your name, badge number and work location with each entry. Good Luck!



GUESS WHO?

New tax laws Could affect you

BY BILLIE JUNE KILEY

Whether you fill out your own tax return or have it prepared for you, there are some changes in the tax laws that you should be aware of. This article is strictly advisory. Consult your tax advisor or the instructions in your tax forms before completing your return.

The changes that are most likely to affect your return are those concerning itemized deductions. Briefly, the changes fall into the categories of medical, casualty losses, and California State changes.

FEDERAL CHANGES

Medical expenses: Under prior law you could deduct 50% of your health insurance premiums without worrying about the AGI limitation. Both over-the-counter drugs and prescription drugs were deductible. The rest of your insurance premiums, doctors, dentists, glasses, braces, labs, medical travel, etc., in excess of 3% of your AGI were deductible (4% for drugs).

Now, all insurance premiums are

subject to the AGI limitation. Only prescription drugs are deductible. In addition, the AGI limit has been raised to 5% (6% for drugs.)

Casualty loss: Under prior law each non-business loss (for example: burglary, storm damage to your home, auto accidents) was deductible in part. The loss in excess of any insurance reimbursement less a \$100.00 "floor" was deductible. Now an additional reduction of 10% of your AGI is required. In most cases, except for major losses, there will be no amount left to deduct.

DON'T OVERLOOK THESE

Some itemized deductions that haven't changed but may be overlooked are telephone calls to check on work assignment, travel to a second job or training classes, and medical travel plus parking. There is one small change to the optional sales tax table. If you use this table, add an additional 8% to the amount listed for your AGI to get the 1/2¢ L.A. Co. sales tax.



CALIFORNIA CHANGES

California has adopted the Federal medical expense change and uses Federal AGI limitations. Thus, both California and Federal medical deductions will be exactly the same. The state did not adopt the Federal change to casualty losses, so only the insurance reimbursement and the \$100.00 "floor"

is subtracted. This year California also deleted the deduction for gasoline tax. There is a new provision for deducting a portion of the amount paid for RTD monthly passes or car-pool expenses.

Remember, if you have any questions, check with the IRS or your tax advisor.

District honored for National Guard support

The RTD was honored by the National Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserves on October 6 at District headquarters.

Brigadier General Fred W. Kline awarded a "recognition plaque" to RTD Board President Mike Lewis and District General Manager John

RTD Board President Mike Lewis agreed that National Guard and Reserve Forces members undertake an added responsibility today. "They put service to their country ahead of comfort and are willing to leave family and friends when duty calls," he said. "In turn, they deserve job security and the support and understanding of their fellow citizens. We at RTD are proud to guarantee their job security."

"Reserve members represent all levels of RTD's work force from



Dyer applauding the District's initiative in supporting the men and women who serve America in the Guard and Reserve.

"RTD has long been an inspiration and example for other companies in our area," he said.

Underscoring the need for this participation, Hollins pointed out that since 1973 the United States has met its military personnel requirements without the aid of the draft. "Today the National Guard and Reserve Forces are assigned increasingly important roles and are the primary source for augmentation in an emergency and for a substantial expansion of the armed forces," Hollins added.

operators and mechanics to secretaries, technicians and managers," added General Manager John Dyer. "Each employee is a vital member in the public transit system here in Los Angeles and in the service of their country."

In closing, Hollins told the Board, "RTD stands tall in the community for its participation in the reserve program and insuring that those members who want to participate in the military reserve programs can do so without losing money, job security, promotions and vacation time. You are not only doing a service to your community in providing public transportation but your country as well by letting your employees participate in the National Guard and Reserve Forces."

By Frank Larson

In past years, the Safety Department has hosted a Safety Awards Luncheon at each Transportation and Maintenance Division. The purpose was to recognize persons who had excelled in both fleet and industrial safety.

This year, the Safety Department decided that since Safety is something that plays a big part in employees lives each day, to put on a Safety program that will be of value to all involved.

We contacted the Transit Police, various law enforcement agencies, and our own Transportation and Maintenance Instruction Departments and asked them to take part in the program. All of them responded to our request, helping make the program a success.

A typical Safety day starts at 4:00 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts at both the Transportation and Maintenance terminals. This is followed by an operator's safety meeting chaired by the Senior Instructor. Subjects covered at these meetings include problems on various lines, high frequency types of accidents, schedules, and anything pertaining to the safe operating of buses and handling of passengers.

The Safety Department then presents a film on traffic safety followed by a question and answer session.

The program is set to a pretty fast pace. No sooner is the film session over, than a presentation is then made by the Transit Police. This session has proven to be the highlight of the day's events. All problems are discussed and situations are explained as to what the functions of the Transit Police are and how the operator can assist them in making his job a safer one.

After the Transit Police session is completed, a buffet lunch is served. During this time, the Safety Awards Presentations are made. This part of the program is opened by the Division Transportation Manager who introduces the guests, followed by comments by the General Manager or his repre-

sentative. The guests include: Members of the Board, Executive Staff, Department heads, law enforcement agencies representatives and others. The Manager of Operations then makes the presentation to the awardees, both in Transportation and Maintenance.

During the afternoon the Maintenance Department and Instruction Departments host a safety meeting where problems or new ideas are discussed.

During the "Safety Awareness Day" program, safety inspections are made of both the Maintenance and Transportation Facilities by the Safety Department with the respective managers participating and follow-up corrective actions taken if discrepancies are observed.

Gertrude Day Dies at 63

Gertrude Day, wife of Board of Director's member John Day, died of cancer on January 10, 1984 at the age of 63.

John Day, a Glendale city council member also, was with his wife at the St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank when she died.

Gertrude Day was born in Toledo, Ohio, and the Day's had been married 42 years.

The Day's have eight children; Susan Day, John T. Day, Trudy Howell, Kate Day, Patrick Day, Fanchon Boyett and Joie Day.

Mrs. Day is survived by a sister, Gretchen Effler; a brother, Gayle Schmidt; and 11 grandchildren.

The Day's have lived in Glendale since 1962, in the Glenoaks Canyon area.

One of Mrs. Day's pet projects was the preservation of the Glendale foothills. She is also considered to be largely responsible for the development of Scholl Canyon Park. She was a member of the Small Wilderness Area Preservation Group, Glendale Beautiful and the Glendale Historical Society.



HALF OF A CENTURY — Arthur Winston, with his wife Frances, celebrated fifty years of service to the District on January 24th with a party in his honor at Div. 5. Two days later, the Board of Directors presented Mr. Winston with a special plaque commemorating his achievement. Director Ruth Richrer commented during the ceremony that, "No other current RTD employee has as many years of continuous service in the transit industry in Los Angeles." During the festivities held at Div. 5, Winston, when asked about how he felt upon achieving an incredible fifty years on the job, told his audience that he was, "ready to start my second fifty years. As a matter of fact, I already have."



Sharks Take Baseball Honors

The Sharks won 3 games in 13 hours to take the District baseball championship. The formidable odds were even more difficult, because blocking their path was an old nemesis and three-time champs. Div. 18, but a Shark attack resulted in a 12-8 defeat for the ex-champs. Headquarters had one win over the Sharks, and was undefeated in post season play. Their pursuit of the championship was just as dogged as the Sharks. Aggressive play sparked the first game, won by the Sharks 9-8, forcing a decision game.

Asked to do it again by Coach Braxton, the intrepid Sharks were playing for the Championship for

the fourth time. Three years in a row, Div. 18 had been one run better, but this year they were eliminated. Headquarters was the foe now.

The Sharks were pumped up and continued their aggressive play until the final ball was flagged effortlessly by Jeff McCain, and just like that Division 6 was No. 1 with a winning season (9-2) topped by the Crown. Team members include Coach Tony Braxton, T. P. Hill, Jr.-Brooks, Fastblack-Mayes, Showcase-Watkins, Reggis Smith, A. Cruz, H. Kenneybrew, J. McCain, A. Reeder, A. Nicols, H. Musgrove-outstanding catcher, C. Hebrard, Wingate, Ike and A. Mott.

TRIPPERS

PIPPEN NAMED DIRECTOR

Emmitt L. Phippen, a radio dispatcher, was appointed state director of the Order of Knights of Pythagoras in November.

The order is the youth organization sponsored by Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California, Hawaii, and Jurisdiction.

Phippen, a 16-year RTD veteran, is a past-master of Silvermoon Lodge 105, past patron of Silver Star Chapter 89, and the founder of Silvermoon Council 7 of the Knights of Pythagoras of Pomona. He is a current member of Riverside Consistory 272, Sheik Temple 98, and Recorder for the Pomona Shrine Club.

Phippen and his wife, Willie Velma, live in Ontario. They have two sons, two daughters and three grandchildren. Phippen is also a licensed real estate broker.

ROMERO'S ANNOUNCE BIRTH

Division 2 Service Attendant Andy Romero and his wife Isabel are proud to announce the birth of a son, Marcus Adam, on January 22, 1984. Marcus came into the world weighing 5 lbs., 13 oz. and joins five brothers and sisters. Marcus got his name in an odd manner. Isabel, watching the Super Bowl while waiting for her newest child to make his appearance, told Andy if it was a boy, they'd name him after the game's highest scorer. And another family tradition begins.

BANUELOS SETS RECORD

Larry Banuelos, a 59 year-old Mechanic A lead from Division 2, set a new world record for his age group on Dec. 11 in the eight-kilometer Sub-4 Caprolan Invitational Road Race, finishing the event in 30 minutes, 49 seconds.

SAFE PERFORMANCE — Division 7 Maintenance Manager Richard Morton accepts the Third Quarter Safe Performance Award from Director Jan Hall and General Manager John Dyer on behalf of his division. Division 7 not only eliminated all vehicle accidents during the Third Quarter, but for a full twelve consecutive months. Division 5 Transportation manager Ralph Wilson (left) displays the Safe Performance Award his division won on the strength of a Safety grand slam; Division 5 operators reduced traffic, passenger and industrial accidents throughout the Third Quarter.

South Park Employees Of The Month

NOVEMBER

Service Attendant Annie Coleman was named South Park Shops Maintenance Employee of the Month for November. Currently with the Automotive Section, Annie is the first employee to be nominated by two supervisors. They both say that her outstanding attitude, industry, work habits, and ability to work in full cooperation with others, led to her selection.

DECEMBER

Andy Miller, a Mechanic A Lead in the engine rebuild shop, was named South Park Shops Maintenance Employee of the Month for December. Andy's supervisor says that among his many outstanding job characteristics are a willingness to assist subordinates who lack knowledge of a task and a demonstrated willingness to cooperate with both management and his co-workers.

JANUARY

South Park Shops named Jack Tagler as their Maintenance Employee of the Month for January. As first shift leader in the Sheet Metal Shop, Jack not only determines all job assignments but also deals directly with all Division needs. His supervisor says he performs his assignments with diligence, dependability, initiative and pride.



SAFE PERFORMANCE — Division 7 Maintenance employees reduced their occupational accident rate by 74 percent during the fourth quarter of 1983 while Division 3 Transportation reduced theirs by 84 percent. Shown here accepting their respective Safe Performance Awards from Director Jan Hall and General Manager John Dyer (center) are Richard Morton (left) and Jim Leukens. Safety Analyst Frank Larson (far right) aided in the presentation.

Division 9's Gibson Deck takes top driving honors

Gibson Lee Deck, September Operator of the Month and a West Covina resident, has been named RTD's 1983 Operator of the Year. Although completely unexpected, Deck says, the honor caps his 24 years of service to Los Angeles public transportation.

Selected from the ranks of the District's 5,000 bus drivers, Deck's final selection came only after careful analysis of the records of all 12 of 1983's Operators of the Month. "In the end, it came down to a single points' difference in their records," one selection committee member noted. "It was that close a contest."

"RTD is pleased to acknowledge the outstanding service Gibson Lee Deck has performed consistently over the past quarter of a century," said Sam Black, assistant general manager for operations. "He sets a high standard of excellence for all of our operators to follow," Black added.

Deck says he owes the honor to his manager at Division 9, Jim Cenderelli. "He (Cenderelli) is the one that made it happen. When I was named Operator of the Month I never expected to make Operator of the Year, too. Without Mr. Cenderelli's nomination none of this would have happened."

"You have to keep in mind," Cenderelli points out, "that all I did was nominate Gibson for Operator of the Month. It was his performance, his record, that won these awards. He's a superb operator and deserves this recognition," he added.

Deck began his public transit career in 1960 as a bus operator with RTD's predecessor, the Metropolitan Transit Authority. He has been with the District since it was created by the state legislature in 1964. He presently drives Line 170, serving California State University, Los Angeles, and El Monte via Hellman Avenue. Deck has a 23-year safe driving award and has earned 900 merits, the maximum number any operator can earn.

Deck and his wife Carmelina center their lives around their family. Even his hobby, restoring old automobiles, involves the family. He works on them, for sale and swapping, with his son John, a mechanic at Division 4. "It's my primary hobby," Deck says. "We always have at least three or four cars we're working on, getting ready to sell or swap for something else." On weekends, Deck adds, "You can almost always find us working on the cars or at a swap meet trying to trade them off." Deck's family also includes his daughter Amelia and the four grandchildren he and Carmelina enjoy so much.

Deck was honored at a recent luncheon along with the 11 other drivers who were runners-up for the District's highest honor. He received a certificate of recognition and a check for \$250 in addition to kudos from Director of Transportation Edward Nash, Assistant Manager for Operations Sam Black and General Manager John Dyer, at the ceremony.

Summing it all up nicely when presented with the award by Dyer, Deck commented, "You know, this feels pretty good . . . I never expected it to happen, though."



TOP HONORS — Gibson Deck accepts his award for Operator of the Year from General Manager John Dyer (right) and Assistant General Manager for Operations Sam Black during the awards ceremony. Director of Transportation Edward Nash is in the background.

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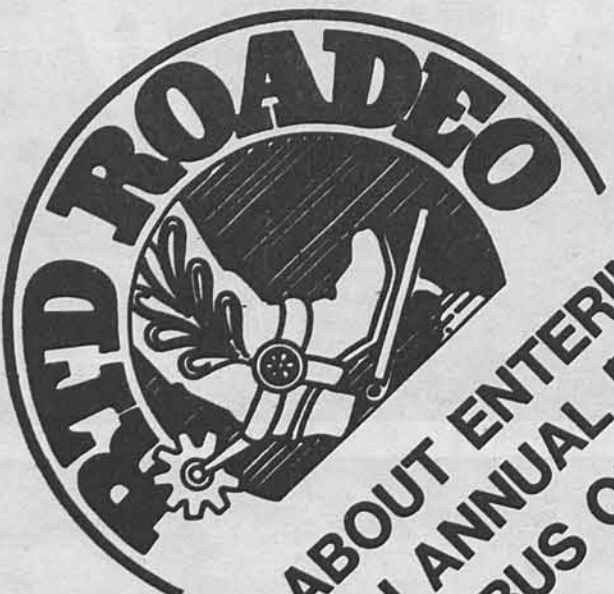
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WHEN: Preliminary Competition May 8-12.
 Finals Competition September 8.

WHERE: The Parking Lot at Santa Anita Race Track.

WHO: All Operators who Meet the Eligibility Requirements (see back of this announcement).

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1st Prize
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Do you know something interesting about your fellow SCRTD employees? Let us know.

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Cacun, Mexico. Beautiful 2 BR villa on beach, completely furnished. Available one or two weeks: Aug. 18-25 or Aug. 27-Sept. 1. Phone (213) 971-2119 after 6 pm.

FOR SALE

1975 green Porsche 914/1.8 with Webers. New: engine, brakes, clutch, tires, battery. \$5,000 firm. Call 437-3221 7 pm.

FOR SALE

1966 Cadillac w/76,000 original miles, in mint condition. \$2,000 firm. Call 695-9031 eves, ask for Diane.

FOR SALE

Brahma shell w/boot & sliding tinted windows fits late model Datsun PU long bed or standard bed. \$450.00 OBO. Also, carpet kit with side boxes fits same. \$200.00 OBO. Call Ted or Virginia eves at 582-9685.

FOR SALE

Rhodes Fender suitcase pro electric piano. Includes accessory inputs, pre-amp in/out and headphone. \$800.00, call Sonny A. at (213) 726-2679.

FOR SALE

Brother typewriter—Profile Electric 12. Beige and brown w/case, almost new. \$200.00, evenings only call 264-9813.

FOR SALE

1980 Honda CM400E motorcycle in mint condition, black, 2900 miles, 50 mpg, \$825.00. Call Richard Selsky at (213) 831-8698.

DODGER TICKETS

Interested in 1/8 share of two Dodger season tickets? Lining up people now. Round-robin choice of dates. Call Jess at 827-0195.

FOR SALE

1981 gray Honda Civic sedan, AT/air, FM cassette, excellent condition, w/cover. \$5,500. Call 500-9109.

FOR SALE

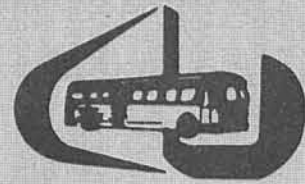
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1981 red Honda Passport-70 deluxe street bike, three gears, front basket, 1700 miles, excellent condition. \$300. Call (213) 463-7077.

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Down Payment	15%
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Average B.B. DN. Payment- Up to 2 yrs. old	20%
Average B.B. Over 2 yrs. old	25%
Refinancing Loans Originating with F.D.E.F.C.U.	15%
Refinancing Up to 85% of Average B.B.	15%
Loans Originating with other Institutions.	15%
Up to 2 yrs. old - 80% of Average B.B.	15%
Over 2 yrs old - 75% of Average B.B.	15%
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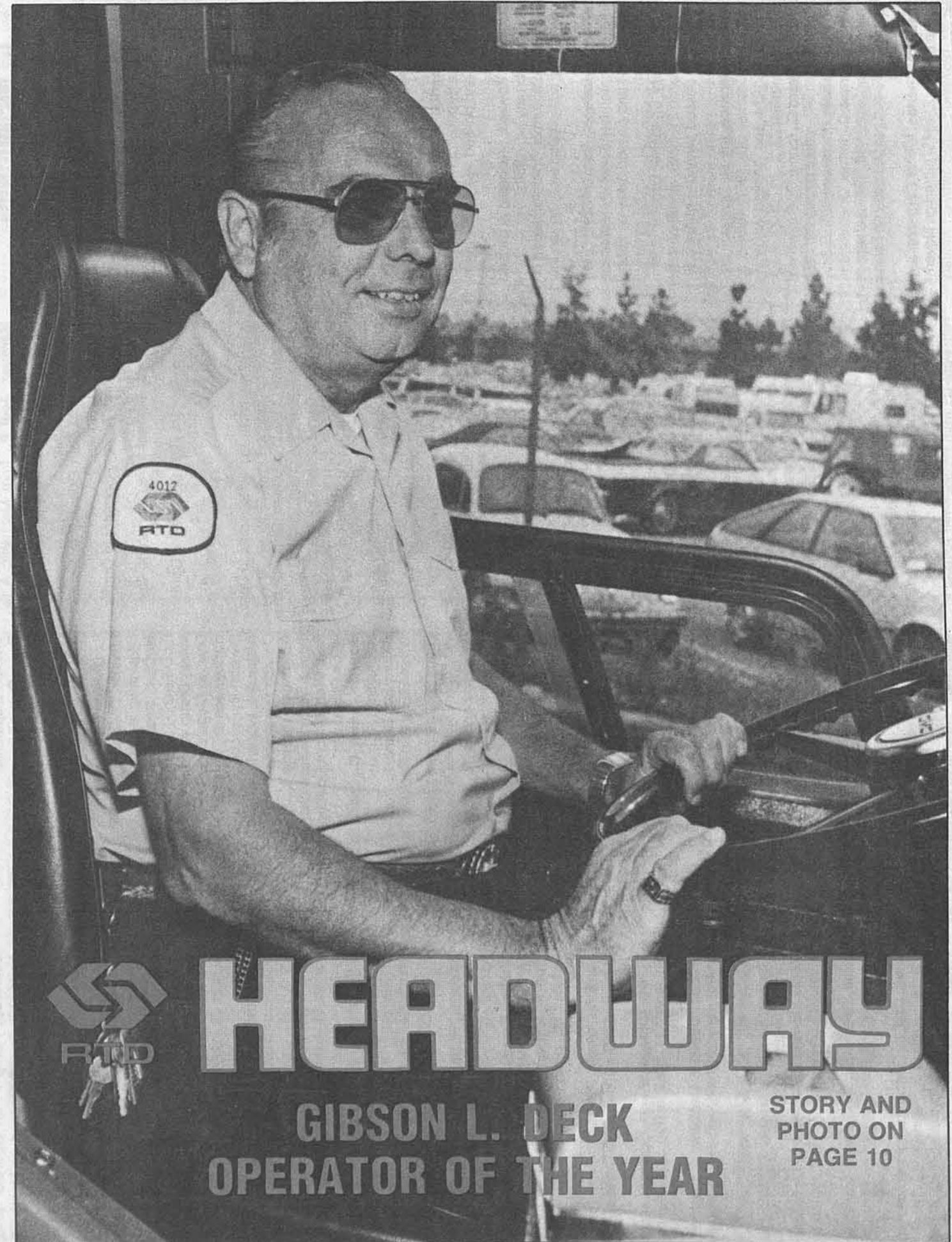
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Dennis Dobson, Editor