

# HEADWAY



Volume 13 Number 4

April 1985

## Inside This Issue

- Telephone Information Department
- Who Needs a Will?
- Missy Rand—CSULB 49er
- To Your Health
- New Drug Policy

## RTD To Assist in Missing Children Campaign

*"He is my last thought at night, the first when I wake up. I think, 'Oh it's raining. Does he have shelter? Is he lying underground, decomposing? Is he being beaten or chained or sexually abused? Does he have new shoes?' Something like this is with you every hour of every day. It is like your body never gets time to recuperate."*

— Mother of missing teenage son

*"Not knowing where he is, whether he is dead or alive, leaves a terrible hollowness inside that will never be filled."*

— Mother of missing four year old

**Have you seen these children?**  
**¿Ha visto Ud. estos niños?**

 Name: MONICA BONILLA Sex: Female Age: 7 1/2 years (now) Photo shows age 5 years Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Race: Hispanic Last seen: Burbank, CA Sept. 22, 1982	 Name: DONEL MINOR Sex: Male Age: 8 months (now) Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Race: Negro Last seen: Inglewood, CA Dec. 20, 1984
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CALL: SHERIFF'S DEPT.  
**(213) 974-4346**  
24 HOURS DAILY

The prototype above of the "Have You Seen These Children" transit ad campaign will include Monica Bonilla and Donel Minor on the April poster.

Monica Bonilla. Along side a black-and-white photo of each child, information shall be given which includes the present age of the child and at what age the child's picture was taken. All posters will carry the Sheriff's Department phone number for persons to call with information.

In the case of the April poster, the description given about Donel Minor includes his sex, his current age of six months, the color of his hair and eyes which are brown, and his race, which is black. He was last seen in Inglewood on December 20, 1984. For Monica Bonilla, she is a seven-and-a-half year old with brown eyes and brown hair. She is Hispanic and was last seen in Burbank on Sep-

tember 22, 1982. A sheriff's spokesperson said the girl was taken from her Burbank home by her father in September 1982, on the same day divorce papers were served on the girl's mother. The Minor child was abducted from his Inglewood home about four months ago by a man posing as a photographer.

The decision as to whose children shall be featured on each month's poster is made by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Parents of missing children interested in displaying their children's pictures must contact Deputy Galen Sabean of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at (213) 974-4346.

RTD's Director of Marketing,

Tony Fortuno, said the pictures on the posters are expected to be changed monthly. The installation of the posters is being handled by Winston Network, Inc., the District's present transit advertising franchisee. Winston Network, Inc. will bear the labor cost for installing and removing the posters.

*"You keep working, keep fighting and hope that maybe God will give you this brilliant idea that will lead you to your child."*

— Mother of missing teenage son

According to Alford S. Regner, Director of the United States Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency as many as one million children leave home each year with 90% returning in two weeks. Approximately 100,000 children are unaccounted for. Another 25,000 to 100,000 children are stolen by divorced or separated parents involved in custody disputes. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department estimates 1,600 children have been listed as missing in California since 1980. The majority are runaways and some are taken during custody disputes.

Much attention has been focused on this problem through the media in recent years. Probably the most publicized case has been that of 6 year-old Etan Patz. On May 25, 1979, Etan walked alone for the first time to his Manhattan school bus stop and has not been seen since. Searches with

Continued on page 3

## District Moves with Benefit Assessment

The RTD Board of Directors voted Feb. 14 to proceed with establishment of two benefit assessment districts, one in downtown Los Angeles and one at the Alvarado/Wilshire Station to support construction of the first four-mile phase of the Metro Rail subway.

The proposal now goes before the Los Angeles City Council, which must hold a public hearing before acting to approve, disapprove or modify the assessment district boundaries and rates. That hearing should be scheduled this spring.

"RTD plans to raise \$130.3 million from benefit assessment districts to help pay for construction of the first phase of Metro Rail," explained RTD Board President Nick Patsouras.

"This unprecedented support by the private sector for modern rail project is the key to securing federal funding for both the initial segment of the project and, eventually, the balance of the 18-mile subway that will link downtown Los Angeles and North Hollywood via the Wilshire Corridor," Patsouras added.

The Board formulated the outline for its benefit assessment plan

based on input from a 33-member task force of local businessmen and public agency representatives, many of whom represent firms or constituents who will be subject to the assessments. This citizens advisory task force is supportive of the District's plans.

It will cost an estimated \$1.175 billion to construct the first Metro Rail segment including the cost of building central control facilities, a train storage yard, and maintenance shops that will serve the entire subway system.

As future Metro Rail extensions gain federal funding approval, an additional \$40 million will be generated through benefit assessment districts established along the remainder of the Metro Rail alignment.

Five stations are planned along the first four-mile stretch of the subway line. The sites include: Union Station, First and Hill Streets, Fifth and Hill Streets, Seventh and Flower, and Wilshire and Alvarado.

A single benefit assessment district is proposed to encompass a half-mile walking distance around the first four stations. The

Continued on page 3

## Cover Story

### Winston Holds RTD's Seniority Record

In the age of the Yuppies, switching from one hard-driving fast track to another is the challenge sought, not so for Arthur Winston who holds the District's record for longest years of continuous service.

Winston was employed by the Los Angeles Pacific Electric Railway Co. in 1925. He quit in 1930 because he chose to marry and did not want to work the night shift offered him. However, within four years he returned and established his current seniority date—January 24, 1934.

"When the District was called the Los Angeles Pacific Electric Railway Company, I worked as a janitor for 41 cents an hour. In those days they didn't even know what a vacation was," said Winston.

Winston eventually became a Utility Leadman with the District at Division 5. "I remember during World War II because of the manpower shortage I had to work two shifts. I never missed a day of work. As a matter of fact, I think my attendance record is pretty good. My record is perfect for accidents. I think I was only late three times in fifty-one years. And I don't think I've ever been sick, thank God," he said.



Arthur Winston, Division 5 Utility Leadman, marks 51 years of continuous service with the District.

Winston is now 79 years old. His eyes sparkle with vitality and

Continued on page 3

## New LACTC Head Given Tour of District

The New Chairwoman of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, Jacki Bacharach, believes Metro Rail will be built.

"I believe the federal government will not run away from what is so desperately needed in this country," Ms. Bacharach said. "I think this thing (budget cuts) is just being done to see if we'll crack. Unfortunately, this delaying maneuver will only make the project more costly."

Ms. Bacharach is a councilwoman for the city of Rancho Palos Verdes and has twice served as mayor for that same community. She says that one of her top priorities as LACTC Chairwoman is to "develop a strong and cooperative relationship with the RTD."

Ms. Bacharach was recently given a tour of RTD facilities. Photographed at the Central Maintenance Facility construction site (right) are from the left: Robert S. Korach, Assistant General Manager for Operations; Rich Davis, Director of Maintenance and Equipment; Jacki Bacharach, Chairwoman of LACTC; Jack Wang, CMF Senior Resident Engineer; Priscilla Adler, Legislative Analyst; and Phillip Meyers, Chief Engineer.



RTD Operations, Maintenance, and Bus Facilities personnel escort the new LACTC Chairwoman Jacki Bacharach through the construction site of the new Central Maintenance Facility.

## TPO Carleton Little To Attend OCS

Transit Police Officer Carleton Little, a member of the California National Guard has been accepted to Officer's Candidate School. Upon completion of the four-month course in Fort Benning, Georgia, Officer Little will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. The five-year veteran of the District's Transit Police is looking forward to the opportunity. "This is an ambition I've held since high school. It's a matter of working hard for something and finally achieving it. It's great!" said Little. Little was quick to add that his acceptance to OCS ranks second in his mind to his entrance into the Police Academy, "I'm a cop first, everything else comes second." Little gives credit to his tenure at the District as the impetus in achieving this honor. "If it wasn't for the RTD, I wouldn't be doing this. My Reserve Unit is the 40th Supply and Transport Battalion. Most of the unit is comprised of RTD employees. It was their support and that family atmosphere that encouraged me."

Officer Little resides with his family in Compton.

## Transit Police Task Force Deployed

Cagney & Lacey and T.J. Hooker are a couple of T.V. series that portray the supposedly dramatic life of the police officer in which the officer always catches the crook, or good wins over evil. However, in reality, the crook is not always so easily caught in Los Angeles County.

The District, in an effort to deter crime aboard buses and at local bus stops has deployed an extra six-man transit police force in the County's second district, which encompasses South Central Los Angeles, Inglewood, Culver City, Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Lynwood and an incorporated area. The County contracted with the RTD in December 1984 for extra police coverage during a six-month pilot project. The cost of the program is an estimated \$221,000, which will be paid primarily with the County's Prop A sales tax receipts. The cities of Carson, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale and Lynwood have pledged \$29,500 of this total.

Studies have shown that 60 percent of all RTD transit related crimes, occur in the second district. RTD's Crime Prevention Officer and Investigator Marvin Merriweather points out, "There is a very logical explanation to the high crime rate in this area. There are 72 bus lines which make up 45 percent of RTD's daily ridership. The population density is two times greater than the County's average. In 147 square miles there are 1.4 million residents, and interestingly enough these residents comprise 20% of the County's population."

Crime persists on city streets, and District buses are not exempted from it. "Most of the crimes that occur on streets also occur aboard RTD buses. The most prevalent crimes are purse-snatching, pickpocketing, pulling of jewelry, assaults, etc," said Merriweather.

At the present time, the task force is comprised of six of RTD's Transit Police personnel: Sergeant Kit Armstrong, Crime Prevention

Officer and Investigator Marvin Merriweather, Investigator Pamela Tillman; Officers: B.J. Thomas, Leroy Harris, and Luke Fuller. These officers are assigned to work strictly in the County's second district. They patrol this area, and ride the buses in uniform and undercover. Since the inception of this program last December, following 1,286 random boardings (uniformed and undercover officers boarding buses), 19 arrests have resulted along with 85 counsel and release situations (removal of passengers for various reasons). As Merriweather explains, "We are really happy about these statistics, since in this area there were no such numbers to be accounted for, prior to this program."

Merriweather is coordinating the crime prevention aspect of the program. He stresses the importance of educating not only the local jurisdictions, but, more importantly, the public. This education consists of making people aware of the fact that, "RTD's Transit Police are not security officers, but actual police officers. We have the same status that L.A.P.D. has," said Merriweather. In an effort to educate the public Merriweather has gone out to speak to various groups and organizations. "I focus my presentation on giving tips to prevent crimes, and stress the importance of notifying the RTD's Transit Police, when a crime occurs on our buses. I point out that they should make the bus operator aware of any problems, because they have access to notifying Transit Police." The Transit Police are also making an effort to educate the children and the young adults in the community. Merriweather recently gave a very lively presentation at the Good Shepherd Lutheran School (grades K-9) in Inglewood. "I basically try to give them a general idea on ways to prevent crime, advise them about not getting in cars with strangers, and make them aware of the problem with graffiti and vandalism on RTD buses."



TP Officer Marvin L. Merriweather provides crime prevention tips to ninth-grade students at the Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Inglewood.

## Panish Joins RTD Board of Directors

Leonard Panish has been named by 1st District Supervisor Pete Schabarum to the RTD Board of Directors.

Panish replaces Mike Lewis, who served two terms as RTD president during his nearly nine years on the board. Lewis, a San Dimas resident, continues as chief deputy to Supervisor Schabarum.

Panish is perhaps best known for his 11 year tenure as Los Angeles County's Registrar-Recorder. His office was responsible for voter registration, conducting all federal, state, county and local elections in Los Angeles County, recording all county real estate transactions, and maintaining birth, marriage, and death records.

Upon retirement from the county early last year, Panish went to work for the LAOOC as Director of Ticketing, leaving that organization following the games last fall. He has since been involved in consulting projects.

He began his county service in 1949 as an administrative trainee and advanced to various budgeting, accounting, personnel and administrative positions. For the 10 years prior to his registrar



District Secretary Helen Bolen swears in the newest RTD Board Member Leonard Panish.

appointment in 1973, he served as Chief Deputy, Department of Public Social Services.

Panish graduated from Roosevelt High in Los Angeles and went on to UCLA, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in economics. He has also pursued graduate work at USC in public administration.

## Missing Children—

Continued from page 1

bloodhounds, helicopters, psychics, and scores of police have failed to turn up any clues. It was the circumstances of Etan's case that was the inspiration for Beth Gutcheon's novel, **Still Missing** and the 20th Century Fox adaptation of that novel for the movie "Without a Trace."

Equally moving in its depiction of the anguish of parents with a missing child was the television movie aired on NBC in 1984 entitled "Adam." This was the story of 6 year-old Adam Walsh. Adam was abducted in 1981 from a store in Hollywood, Florida and found with his head severed two weeks later in a canal. The attempts by Adam's parents John and Reve Walsh to find their son led them to join the battle for Congress to change laws and thus ease the search of other parents for their missing children.

"Many of these children," said John Walsh, in a recent interview, citing research done by a center named for his son Adam, "meet a tragic fate. Roughly 10% are sexually abused. And it is estimated that 80% of such youngsters are murdered within two days of their abduction."

Police and social service workers warn parents of some locales that are especially danger-

ous: carnivals, fairs, and shopping malls. Some infants have disappeared from shopping carts at grocery stores. Children have disappeared even from places once thought to be safe: walking to and from school, playgrounds, and back yards.

Hope is the parents' most sustaining force in their ordeal. The RTD's missing children poster is the latest in a nation-wide campaign to locate runaways and stolen children. In California, efforts to publicize missing children began in January when Alta Dena Dairy printed pictures of missing children on its half-gallon milk cartons. Even though the pictures have been circulating less than four months, one success has already been noted. One teenager has returned home two weeks after her picture appeared on an Alta Dena milk carton.

The RTD carries over 1.1 million people on its buses a day. Surely, the odds are greater with those numbers that some one rider will have seen at least one of the missing children. Patrons or operators who believe they may have seen these children are encouraged to call the Sheriff's Department at (213) 974-4346. The line is open 24 hours daily.

## Winston—Mr. Seniority

Continued from page 1

his gait is enthusiastically energetic as he shows you around his yard at Division 5. Most of his supervisors admit his performance is like that of a twenty year-old. "I don't even think about my age. That's an advantage I have. I think you're as old as you think you are. I expect I'll probably live to be 105. My body's in good shape. I'm happy in my work. I don't ever watch the clock when I'm here. I don't waste time. To me coming to work is just like getting up and going to church—it's a pleasure."

Winston credits his longevity on the job to an attitude of acceptance. "I don't fight the system and I don't try to get my way all the time. I've learned over the years how to handle people and accept them for who they are. Things usually turn out pretty good and the job gets done."

Winston has thought occasionally about retirement, but only

briefly. "I think about it but I need to work. If I do retire, I'd have to keep active. I'd probably involve myself in carpentry and travel a lot. I couldn't just do nothing. But I plan to continue working as long as I feel good and to stay as long as they'll let me." Arthur's travels have taken him and his wife to Paris, France twice, London, and Israel.

Winston looks at his life and describes it as full and happy. "I've always been happy in my work and happy with my home life. I've been lucky, life's never been hard. I don't think the world owes me much. I've done what I've wanted to do. Sure, my wife and I have had our tough spots, but we stayed with it. She's the kind of person who worked with me and rolled with the punches of life. I stick by her and she sticks by me."

In May, Winston and his wife Frances will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary.



Winston in his yard.

## Benefit Assessment—

Continued from page 1

second district would envelop the Wilshire and Alvarado station within a one-third mile walking distance of the proposed underground facility.

The RTD Board resolution proposed that all residential property except for hotels and motels be exempted from assessments, as well as parcels owned and occupied by non-profit organizations and public land in public use.

An appeals process also will be implemented and rates will be reviewed every two years, under the plan.

The District is proposing a flat rate applied to assessable property improvements or the land, itself, whichever is greater in size. The initial assessment per square foot would be 30 cents. The maximum rate would not exceed 42 cents.

The benefit assessment districts would be phased out in the year 2008 or earlier once the bonds are redeemed.

Altogether, owners of approxi-

mately 3,100 parcels of office, commercial, retail and hotel and motel property would receive annual assessments starting in 1985 to redeem \$130.3 million in bonds that would be sold to help defray the cost of Metro Rail construction.

The Board has recommended that these assessments only be used for Metro Rail construction and not for operating subsidies.

RTD Board President Patsouras pointed out that property owners are being asked to invest only a small fraction of the financial benefits they will realize by owning land near a Metro Rail station.

"Property owners in Washington, D.C. and other U.S. cities where new rail systems have been built in recent years have enjoyed sharp increases in the value of their properties, as well as increased retail sales, higher occupancy rate, and reduced developer and tenant parking costs, among other benefits," Patsouras said.

## Board Votes to Back Foran's Bill

The RTD Board of Directors has voted to back proposed state legislation that would help stabilize RTD bus fares and support construction of Metro Rail and other mass transit projects in California by increasing general fund subsidies. The measure also would raise the state gas tax to finance construction and maintenance of highways and local roads.

Senate Bill 290, introduced by Senator John F. Foran (D-San Francisco), is a comprehensive transportation funding measure. The bill would earmark \$250 million annually for local public transit agencies from the state's general fund.

RTD's state operating assistance would more than double from an estimated \$15,870,000 currently budgeted in FY 1985 to a

projected \$42.8 million if SB 290 passes.

This increase could help cushion the impact on RTD fares caused by declining local transit tax support and any future elimination of federal operating assistance.

Moreover, SB 290 would ensure that the state would have adequate funds to back its \$400 million commitment for construction of the Metro Rail subway project.

It also proposes to raise the state gas tax by 5 cents to provide a stable and adequate source of revenue for construction and maintenance of state highways and local roads.

The first legislative hearing on SB 290 is scheduled before the Senate Transportation Committee in late March.

## New Financial Responsibility Law To Come

A new section, effective July 1, 1985, has been added to the California Vehicle Code which states every person who drives a motor vehicle is required to be registered in this state upon a highway and, when requested by a peace officer, must provide evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle.

Evidence of financial responsibility means either of the following examples:

A. The name of the insurance company issuing the automobile liability policy, motor vehicle liability policy or bond, and the insurance policy or surety bond number;

B. If self-insured, the certificate or deposit number issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles;

C. The identifying symbol issued to a highway carrier by the Public Utilities Commission (symbol showing classification carrier belongs to and is registered with the Commission) displayed on the motor vehicle.

This means that should a driver be cited for any vehicle code violation that cited driver will be requested to furnish oral or written evidence of financial responsibility. This information will be recorded along with the violation detailed on the citation.

## Dental Exams Given at Div. 5

Free dental examinations, cleaning of the teeth, and X-rays were offered to part-time operators of Division 5 through the courtesy of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry and the Department of Dental Hygiene. This is a pilot project.

This project may be extended to other transportation divisions in the future. Participants in the program were screened (i.e., examined) at Division 5 in the Instruction classroom. The participants made arrangements for their teeth to be cleaned and X-rays to be taken during clinic hours at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry.

## Exercise Helps

Some 8 to 10 million Americans suffer from a bone disease called osteoporosis that mainly affects older people, and is more common among women than men, reports the Health Insurance Association of America.

Its symptoms include back pain, bone fractures and physical deformities. But you can help prevent it, according to medical authorities, with a simple exercise program and sufficient calcium in your diet, such as drinking a glass of milk daily.

# One-Third of Operators Eligible for Honors



Division 10 Manager Award winner for February is Michael J. Ross, second from left. The Operator Recognition Sweepstakes winner is Richard Adams, second from right. Division 10 Manager George Marsala closes ranks on the left with Assistant Manager B.J. Harris on the far right.



Division 8 Manager Award Winner for February is Oscar Londono seen here receiving a check from Manager Audrey Ortiz with Transportation Superintendent Arthur Leahy looking on.



Operator John K. Walker receives the February Manager's Award check from Division 5 Manager Ralph Wilson.

Operator Raymond Seelbinder, retiring on February 9, 1985 after 28 years of service, was the first winner of the Operator Recognition Program Sweepstakes for Division 9.

The first awards were given for the Operator Recognition Program on February 15, 1985 at each of the thirteen divisions. These presentations included the Manager's Award and the Recognition Sweepstakes drawings.

The theme of the program, "In Pursuit of Excellence," has as its purpose to recognize and reward the many bus operators who consistently perform in an outstanding manner. The program provides an opportunity for operators to improve their overall work performance and receive recognition for their efforts.

The awards come in two categories: the Manager's Award and the Operator Recognition Sweepstakes.

Each division manager selects an operator from their division to receive the Manager's Award. Selection is based on an operator's overall work record, which includes attendance, courtesy, safety, attention to duty, and no rule violations. The operator that receives this award gets a check for \$35, a certificate, and their name on the hall of fame plaque.

The Operator Recognition Sweepstakes is open to any operator that has met the criteria for a calendar month. The criteria includes no sick instances, no missouts, no suspensions, no unexcused absences, no chargeable accidents, no chargeable passenger complaints, no rule violations, and no indefinite leave. Meeting this criteria, each opera-

tor's name is included in a drawing for \$100. The drawings are held at each division.

Of the 4,346 operators eligible to participate in the sweepstakes drawing, 31% (or 1,364 operators) of the total operators qualified by having perfect records for the month of January. Division 8 had the most operators in their drawing — 49% of the operator's qualified.

Following is the list of "In Pursuit of Excellence" Winners:

### MANAGER'S AWARD

Division	Recipient
1.	Peter Gerrits
2.	Linda Banks
3.	Joseph White
5.	John K. Walker
6.	Raymond C. Sellers
7.	Clarence Hamilton
8.	Oscar Londono
9.	Julian M. Johannes
10.	Michael L. Ross
12.	E. L. Paternoster
15.	John S. Baber
16.	Wilmer Johnson
18.	Marvin Fite

### OPERATOR RECOGNITION SWEEPSTAKES

Division	Winner
1.	Juan Medina
2.	Nelson Bagsby
3.	Jon M. Lee
5.	Teddie Cheaves
6.	Helen J. Greene
7.	Orlando Medrano
8.	Eddie L. Gustin
9.	Raymond Seelbinder
10.	Richard Adams
12.	W.B. Smiley
15.	John Halyak
16.	Russell Andrews
18.	Hubert Hayes

## Operator Albert Troy Dubbed as "Commendation King"

Division 2 operator Albert Troy has been dubbed the "Commendation King." The following are excerpts from letters that have been received in the last few months:

"He gave me one of the most enjoyable rides I have ever had anywhere. He called the streets, was polite to the riders and wished people a good day. I noticed other riders were very delighted with him, I had never seen so many smiles on otherwise sad-looking faces."

"He greeted me with a friendly hello as he did with other passengers. What was most remarkable was he called the name of every street we were passing by, the number of the buses to be caught at certain intersections and even the names of popular restaurants, department stores, banks and special buildings. If he would be employed as a guide for the city tour he couldn't do any better . . . I am entirely dependent on buses and was astounded by the courtesy he shows to the public."

"I am not a regular patron of your bus service, but I was so impressed by the knowledge, courtesy and generally positive approach (of Albert Troy) that I had to write to you commending him . . . It is a pleasure to find an employee of a public agency who is as caring and able as he is."

"I have just returned home to Skokie, Ill., after a two-month visit to Los Angeles and rode various bus lines during my stay . . . I had the pleasure and good fortune to ride (with Albert Troy), who announced every street, mentioned street addresses, gave us the time of day and also showed the courtesy of helping some people on and off the bus. To me it was just like a pleasant tour."

So who is this commendation king?

Albert Troy is a modest man who says, "I can't imagine why I

Continued on page 5



Operator Albert Troy of Division 2 has been called the "Commendation King."

## "Commendation King"

Continued from page 4

was chosen for an article. There are so many operators with longer and better records." So what is special or different about Albert Troy? He is a man who sees his job full of interesting possibilities. He is a man who puts a portion of himself into his work. He not only listens to people who are nervous because they are going downtown perhaps for the first time, or on their first job interview, or those who are new or strangers to the city, or those who simply need someone to hear them out, but he enjoys helping them with good information, giving the best he can. For example, he once made a study of Wilshire Boulevard. He memorized nearly every address and business the entire length of the boulevard. He did this by spending spare time strolling along the boulevard and becoming acquainted with it.

Troy discovered the village of Westwood which borders Wilshire. He has gone into Westwood and memorized what movies were playing there and where. He has walked around looking at restaurant menus and memorized house specialties and prices. He enjoys giving people helpful, accurate information "off the top of his head." He enjoys simplifying decision-making for others and giving them useful information to help them have a good time.

When questioned further about how and why he relates so easily to people, he said that his varied experiences and travels have made it easy for him to relate to people. He was in the Navy and served in Viet Nam. He traveled the United States as a young man, made paint, drove trucks and heavy equipment, tried his hand at farming and ranch work, made oil, worked on trucks, took a year of business management training and classes in refrigeration and thermodynamics. He has also worked as a cook in various kinds of restaurants. For a while he worked two diverse jobs: he was a cook during the day and a master of ceremonies doing improvisations and singing at night.

Asked about the secret of his bubbling good humor, Troy said he keeps himself up. That is, he has to start each day out in a positive way no matter how bad anything feels. This means that "I enter my job with a smile despite anything negative that might be said to me. If I can keep that first fifteen to twenty minutes positive and up, then the rest of the day goes well."

"I like my job, I like people and working with them. They need me and I need them. I need them for myself, a form of therapy. I don't need negative or bad feelings coming my way so I try not to give any."

## To Your Health

### High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) Part One



by Elia Hager  
Visiting Nurse

#### High Blood Pressure and Your Body

With high blood pressure, pressure in the arteries is always higher because the arteries are too narrow or clamped down, causing the heart to pump harder to make the blood pass through the narrowed space.

In arteriosclerosis, deposits of minerals or fats start building on the sides of the arteries, narrowing the inner space. It is much like putting a nozzle on the end of a garden hose. The narrower the outlet of the nozzle, the higher the pressure of the water as it leaves the end of the hose. In the case of a person suffering a stroke what occurs is something like excessive pressure placed on a garden hose. Areas along the hose will become weaker and will spring leaks. A small vessel in the brain, weakened under constant high pressure can break, allowing blood to flow into the brain, causing damage related to the amount of blood lost and the part of the brain affected.

High blood pressure adds to the work of the muscles and the capillaries of the heart as well as the capillaries of the brain, the kidneys, and the eyes. If high blood pressure is allowed to continue for a long time without treatment, the person not only runs the risk of stroke but runs the risk of heart failure, kidney failure, blindness, and heart attack.

(More on Hypertension Next Month)

#### Blood Pressure

Everyone has a blood pressure, that is, as long as your heart keeps on beating. When you have your blood pressure taken, there are two numbers read. The top number reported is the systolic pressure. In very simple terms the systolic pressure is the force the blood exerts against the walls of the arteries as the blood is pumped from the heart to the arteries. The bottom number or the diastolic pressure is the pressure of the blood within the heart and arteries between heartbeats. Normal blood pressure is individual, varying from person to person with 140/90 as the high normal.

#### Normal "vs" High

It is normal for blood pressure to vary during the day and simple stressors will cause a greater variation. Happiness as well as sadness will cause your pressure to go up. In cases where blood pressure is consistently higher than 160/90, permanent damage occurs in the eyes, heart, and kidneys.

## CSULB Sharpshooter Eyes National Championship

Missy Rand, Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) women's basketball player is the daughter of Operator Richard Rand from Division 3212 who has been with the District since 1965.

The 5'11" junior in her third season with the 49er women was First Team All-San Diego County Prep in high school. "My interest in collegiate basketball grew out of a successful high school performance at Santana High which led to recruitment by CSULB Coach Joan Bonvicini," said Missy. Making the transition from a high school standout to a contributing member of a university team is not as smooth as one might imagine. "It was not an easy adjustment for me. In high school, everyone is 'all honors,' but at the university level the talent is much better. It was difficult because I didn't play. Then again, most freshmen don't play, especially on good teams," she said.

The CSULB women are much more than a "good team." They're ranked third in the nation with an impressive league record of 25-2 and earlier last month clinched their league title once again in a tooth and nail victory (64-61) over conference rival, the University of Southern California (USC) Women of Troy. USC, powered by Olympian Cheryl Miller, is currently the two-time reigning National Champion. Missy, playing the positions of both forward and guard was instrumental in the victory over USC and adds, "Cheryl Miller is an excellent player but once you're out there (on the court) you can't be in awe of her or think she's any better. You're playing 'SC, the entire team, not just Miller."

Missy is looking forward to the Final Four and says that the team is thinking "National Championship" as sports fans alike are already on the bandwagon. (The Final Four are the four remaining teams who do battle for the national crown.)

Missy continually strives to bring out the best of her ability that lies within. "When I first arrived at Long Beach, I had to hustle more and get my jump shot down, but things are much easier now." Teammate Jackie White, senior starting guard adds, "She's a hard worker and full of determination. She's outgoing and easy to get along with. Missy fills an important role, she is an all-round team player."

Season statistics reflect good, solid play on behalf of Missy as her career high was 16 points against Pepperdine and totals for

the year were 193 points, 70 rebounds, 73 assists, and from the line a 48% field goal average. CSULB women's Coach Joan Bonvicini is quick to praise Missy's contributions. "Missy has earned the title of the team's 'designated shooter,' she is really a great shooter and has improved so much since she was a freshman." Bonvicini adds that, "On the court Missy's play is intense and she



Missy Rand, Long Beach State 49er guard and forward.

works very hard." Coach Bonvicini further recalls that, "It was hard for Missy to take a back seat, she was tired of sitting on the bench so she got out there and put forth lots of effort and began making contributions, she became a starter."

Missy says that dad, Richard, always asks, "Is there life after basketball?" The Criminal Justice major wholeheartedly agrees that indeed there is. "When my time is up, it's up. I want my degree. My emphasis is on Corrections and I'm looking forward to an internship. I would eventually like to do some counseling at the juvenile level." Operator Rand acknowledges Missy's accomplishments from an academic standpoint. "Missy has never had a problem distinguishing what comes first. Her school work has always been top priority and she has received better grades because of that. Missy is a good student and fine athlete. She receives nothing but A's and B's."

The Long Beach coed lives at home with her father, brothers and a sister. She is especially proud of her father's own athletic endeavors. Richard Rand spent a couple of seasons in the major leagues as a professional baseball player.

## Cure May Be On Way for Diabetes

Help may be on the way for many of the 6.5 million Americans known to have diabetes, the 5.5 million believed to have it and the estimated 300,000 who die from it in the U.S. annually.

The source of that help is biotechnology, says the Health Insurance Association of America, the branch of science that engineers new ways to eliminate diseases.

Pathologist Paul E. Lacy of the Washington School of Medicine in St. Louis told the Association that studies are now being conducted on improved methods of therapy which may prevent the complications of this "incurable"

disease which can lead to blindness, kidney failure, and arteriosclerosis.

The new technique gives diabetics new cells to provide the insulin they need to regulate their blood sugar levels.

According to Dr. Lacy, this new therapy has completely and permanently reversed diabetes in mice, rats, and dogs — and now, the first human patients are beginning to get implants.

If it works in humans, and the answer should be forthcoming before year's end. Dr. Lacy believes it could benefit as many as 1.5 million diabetics in the U.S. alone.

# COMMENDATIONS



Retirees with a total 382 years of service were honored at the February Board Meeting. Front row from the left: William C. Fleming, RTD Director Charles Storing, Joe L. Hammond, Felix Suma, Ruth Manus, Ermel L. Lambeth, and Frank J. Medvedik. Back row from the left: General Manager John A. Dyer, James H. Fuller, Henry Lee Rhodes, William R. Lasdon, Leroy M. Carlson, William B. Leal, and Louis N. Lutz.



January Employees of the Month — Certificates of Merit were presented to: Division 6 Operator-of-the-Month Thomas E. Vaughn, Maintenance Employee-of-the-Month Louis De La Cruz, and Information Operator-of-the-Month Mark E. Chandler. Looking on from the back row from left: RTD Director Jan Hall, Division 6 Manager Roy Starks, Division 16 Maintenance Manager Jim Findley, General Manager John A. Dyer, and Manager of Customer Relations Robert Williams.



Awards for the greatest increase in contributions to the 1984 RTD United Way Campaign went to both Division 10 Maintenance and Division 10 Transportation. Accepting the awards on behalf of the employee contributors at the Division 10 United Way Celebration are from left to right: Mike Bujosa, ATU Coordinator; Dick Dimon, RTD Administrative Services Officer; Javier Castro, Division 10 Maintenance Coordinator; Ermilo Victoria, Division 10 Maintenance Manager; George Marsala, Division 10 Transportation Manager; Aussie Orange, Division 10 Transportation Coordinator; Dan Bent, United Way Representative; Robert Pitts, Division 10 Transportation Coordinator; and Sam Harper, UTU Coordinator.

## District Names Division Safety Award Winners

The Safe Performance Awards for the fourth quarter of 1984 were presented at the February 28 RTD Board of Directors Meeting. The awards are presented to the maintenance and transportation divisions with the best safety records for that quarter. The winning maintenance division was Division 8. Division 8 employees were recognized for reducing their lost-time occupational injuries from twelve for the 56,600 hours worked during the third quarter to one for the 45,500 hours worked during the fourth quarter or from one injury for each 4,700 hours to one for each 45,500 hours worked. Manager Tedd Brewin accepted the award on behalf of the employees at Division 8.



Maintenance Division 8 Manager Tedd Brewin feels on top of it all with his Division Safety Award.

Division 7 was the award-winning transportation division. The operators at Division 7 also recorded an impressive performance by showing reductions in three categories — traffic, passenger, and lost-time injury accidents.

The operators at Division 7 drove 1,668,333 miles during the fourth quarter which was an increase of 450,000 miles when compared with the third quarter and increased their miles between accidents from 10,500 to 14,900. Also while working 241,000 hours, which was an increase of 19,000 hours over the previous quarter, they increased the hours between lost time injuries from 6,600 to 13,400. Division 7 Transportation Manager Eugene Hamilton accepted the award on behalf of Division 7 operators.



Transportation Division Manager Eugene Hamilton proudly shows off Division 7's Safety Award

# District Enacts Alcohol/Drug Policy

The District Executive Staff has approved an alcohol and drug abuse policy that will cover all District employees effective April 1. The policy stems from a desire to unify the application of drug abuse standards throughout the District. Currently there is no uniform set of guidelines for administering equal discipline standards for both Contract and Non-Contract employees involved in drug use. The policy communicates the responsibilities of both management and employees. As is the priority with most agencies providing services to the general public, providing safety measures against the hazards of drug use is a concern of the District.

Specifically, the policy sets forth several directives with regard to the employee. These include:

1. An employee must report to work and perform the duties of their position without being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
2. The employee must not have their ability to work impaired as a result of using alcohol or drugs while on or subject to duty.
3. Employees are not to have alcohol or drugs in their possession, including on their person.

In the event an employee is in violation of any of the above, he/she may be disciplined up to and including discharge.

The District presently conducts drug screening at biennial, annual, special, and pre-employment physicals, and in the event of accidents. However, further comprehensive provisions will allow supervisors and management to send an employee for a drug screen when the employee is involved in any of the following: 1) physical altercation; 2) an incident where another employee sustains traumatic injury as a result of negligence (both the employee causing the incident and the one injured would be required to undergo testing); 3) verbal altercation; and 4) displaying aberrant behavior (behavior which is bizarre and unusual).

The policy is straightforward as it leaves no margin for speculation as to the consequences for an employee who refuses to comply with a required drug screen: "Refusal to submit immediately to a chemical test when requested by District or law enforcement personnel shall be grounds for termination for insubordination and gross misconduct." The policy also acknowledges and makes clear a very fundamental principle in regard to implied powers. The Dis-

trict **does** have the right to search an employee, personal property, lockers, and vehicles located on its property.

It will also be the obligation of each employee to determine ahead of time whether or not the medication they are taking may cause adverse reactions which interferes with the safety of performing their assigned duties. This information must be made available to the supervisor. Inherent in the policy is the provision of a formal hearing for the purpose of gathering all facts concerning a positive drug screen. In the event an employee's drug screen is positive for a substance which interferes with job performance while on or subject to duty, he/she does run the risk of disciplinary action which may eventually lead to discharge. While a current valid prescription in the employee's name and identifying the substance in use will not exempt the employee from discipline; it is a crucial piece of documentation the employee must obtain for presentation at the hearing.

The other side of the coin is the pre-employment applicant who should happen to test positive for drug screening. The applicant will also be required to provide a current valid prescription identifying the drug in question. Should the

applicant fail to act accordingly, they will not be hired. When an applicant's chemical test is positive for alcohol, he/she will not be hired in this instance either.

Recent District statistics indicate that drug use within the company is between 1-2%. While this low figure would seem to express the problem of drug use as almost non-existent, this could be misleading. While well below industry averages of 35-40% drug use among employees, District drug abuse standards do not reflect the following:

1. Non-Contract employees are not subject to biennial or annual testing.
2. The District does not screen for marijuana.\*
3. The District does not engage in unannounced random testing of its employees.

\* The District is in the process of securing a local clinical laboratory and is contemplating marijuana testing.

Soon to be developed is a program which will assist supervisors in alcohol and drug awareness. For further information, employees are encouraged to contact their department heads.



Ray Johnson, CHP's Chief of the Southern Division (left) and Nick Patasouras, RTD Board President (right) view a bus sign encouraging motorists not to drink and drive. The sign, one of 1,000 currently on RTD buses, is part of a statewide program to deter drunk driving. The signs are displayed free-of-charge on RTD buses as part of a year-long public awareness program spearheaded by CHP.

## Ride RTD To the Races

RTD's Line 609, will offer ease of travel for all you racing fans to Night Harness Racing at Los Alamitos, which began Monday, February 18 and continues through Saturday, April 27, 1985.

Buses leave Beaudry and 5th Streets in downtown Los Angeles beginning at 5:45 p.m. There will be racing Tuesday through Saturdays, with post time at 7:30 p.m.

Line 609 buses make local stops along 6th Street in downtown Los Angeles at Flower, Hill, Broadway, Spring, Main, Wall and San Pedro streets, Towne, Gladys and Central avenues, and at Whittier Boulevard and Boyle Avenue. They then travel non-stop to Los Alamitos via the Santa Ana and 605 Freeways.

Return service via Line 609 buses will leave Los Alamitos 15 minutes after the last race.

## Attend to this Contest

Are you a closet contestant in all kinds of competitions? Do you enjoy writing catchy witticisms and creating quotable quotes? Then this contest is for you, a contest to choose a slogan for the new employee "Attendance Incentive Policy." The procedure is to write down in ten (10) words or less, a slogan that will boost the idea of good attendance, that will be supportive of an attendance policy, and will capture the imagination of RTD employees. The prize will be \$75.00 to the winner plus the pleasure of seeing his/her slogan in use. Please submit all ideas in writing, including your name, badge number, and department or division, to Luanna Urie, Personnel Department.

If there are questions, please call telephone extension 6450. This contest closes April 30th.

## 401(K) Plan Compared

Most of you are aware that the District already offers a Deferred Compensation Plan which provides similar benefits to the new 401 (K) Thrift Plan. Members have already accumulated \$21 million, or \$12,500 per member in the Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan will continue to be available and eligible Non-Contract employees can be in both plans simultaneously if they so desire. Maximum contribution limits will be 25% or \$7,500 into the Deferred Compensation Plan, and up to a maximum of 10% into the 401 (K) Plan.

Existing account balances in the Employee Deferred Compensation Plan may not be moved into the Thrift Plan. Funds left on deposit in the Employees Deferred Compensation Plan will continue to earn interest and dividends even though you have decided to make contributions to the Thrift Plan only.

Within the next few weeks, meetings will be scheduled at various locations to explain the Thrift Plan in greater detail and to provide for enrollment. Most eligible Non-Contract employees will be given an opportunity to attend a meeting or to visit personally with a representative of the Treasurer's Office. Information and enrollment applications may also be obtained by telephoning extensions 2065, 2084, or 6593 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additionally, you are also eligible to contribute to your own IRA if you are a Deferred Compensation Plan member now. To those of you who do not desire to contribute to both plans, we urge you to consider freezing your position in the Deferred Compensation Plan and join the new Thrift Plan for future contributions. Following below is a comparison of key provisions and benefits of each:

	Deferred Compensation	Thrift Plan
IRA Rollover	Not Permitted	Permitted if you retire or leave the District or reach 59½
Taxes on Receipt of Funds	Fully taxable on receipt	Can use 10 year averaging which reduces tax dramatically
Financial Emergency Withdrawal	Permitted in selected cases	Much broader, including withdrawals for purchase of a new home and school tuition
Control of Funds	District has control; members have contract	Assets held in Trust in employee's name.
Loans	Not available	Available in future years when dollar contributions and earnings have accumulated
Transfer of Assets	To a like plan in State of California only.	To any existing 401 (K) Plan

# Telephone Information Will Get You There

## Modern Day Heroes Come to Aid of RTD

### MEET THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCRTD TELEPHONE LINE

Imagine receiving 13,000 requests per day for route, schedule, fare, and major points of interest information. For 45 on-duty Telephone Information Services Operators, this is a common occurrence. The RTD Telephone Information Department is the largest transit telephone information department in the country and operates 7 days a week. Over 3 million calls per year are received by 90 full-time operators.

"It takes stamina, patience, hard work, and a sense of humor to be an operator. The Los Angeles population is multi-cultural and dynamic. Many people depend on us to get them to work, interviews, appointments, school, and home before the last bus run. Therefore, it is crucial to be able to provide fast and accurate information to our customers," says Marie Tervalon, an information operator for the last 14 years.

### Telephone Operator

"Although a day in the life of an operator can be tough, it can be very rewarding as well. We have been instrumental in finding lost children and moving quickly to coordinate efforts with other departments such as Stops and Zones and Dispatching in our search," says Lola Gagner, Senior Instructor. "The telephone information operators have an opportunity to hear about problems first hand and are able to recommend route changes, scheduling etc., which has been helpful to our ridership," said Richard Presnell, Staff Assistant.

The telephone information operators must go through 8 weeks of rigorous training to learn over 250 bus lines, tariffs, all major points of interest, to master reading a Thomas Guide, coordinate up to 5 bus connections, and complete an in-depth on-the-job-training program.

Once this training is completed, they must be able to fit in with the rest of the operators and handle information request calls within an average of 140 to 150



RTD's Telephone Information will let you know how to get there and keep your sense of direction.

seconds. On an average, an operator will receive up to 200 calls per shift.

Edith Miller has been with the District for 12½ years. She describes the information center as one big happy family. "One of the most rewarding things we do is to help the blind become independent by removing the hassles of taking the bus," said Edith. On the phone 8 hours a day, you'll hear some strange requests. The funniest request she has ever received was when a customer called and inquired as to whether there was bus service to Catalina Island and the oddest was whether snakes are allowed on the bus. Communications via the telephone can be very difficult. Sometimes a customer will call in and request to get somewhere, but when asked where they are starting from they reply "I'm at Ralphs." "If I don't know where you are starting, it's impossible for me to give you directions." Their reply, "That's your job, that's what you get paid for." "Everyday, isn't peaches and cream but we all help each other out to survive those days," says Edith.

### High Tech Telephone Information

The Department is moving more and more towards automation. They currently are using the

state of the arts CCIS — The Computerized Customer Information System for the San Fernando Valley sector — which has proven to be a highly effective way to provide route, schedule, and fare information to the public.



Marie Tervalon, Telephone Information Operator, will get you where you're going.

The CCIS data base contains a unique electronic map of all four counties in RTD's service area, with indices for street address, intersections, and land marks. In addition, full information on transit routes, stops, schedules and fares is provided, supported by a pathfinding algorithm. The pathfinding algorithm determines all possible transit paths between two points and ranks them in order of reasonableness, taking into account factors such as total trip time, number of transfers, and walking distance to and from the transit stops. Within a few seconds, the trip information appears on the screen. "The CCIS system which should be fully implemented and operational by the end of this year, will surely help in meeting our demands, in addition to saving the District a considerable amount of money," said Doug Anderson, Systems Coordinator.

"Additionally, we are looking at a computerized packaging program, similar to the telephone directory voice response which would increase productivity, by minimizing the operator's time spent responding to a call by 50 percent," Anderson said. RTD continues to set the trend in providing the most efficient and cost effective service to the transit rider!

"I noticed this man assaulting a female bus operator on the bus. I could see the operator was terribly frightened. What got me mad was that two men standing on the street just watched without lifting a finger to help. That was really sad. I knew I had to do something to help her," said David Munoz, an 18-year-old student at Los Angeles Trade Tech. David ran to the bus and found both doors locked. He saw a gas station nearby and ran to get assistance. Here he found station attendant Hernan Aldama, 31, to assist him. Once again they tried to open the bus doors to no avail. However, the driver's window was open and they began to yell at the assailant. The assailant quickly jumped off the bus and ran down the street. Both men took Hernan's car and followed the assailant down the street. Within two blocks of him, David exited the car and pursued him on foot for five blocks. Hernan phoned the police, who quickly apprehended the assailant. Both David and Hernan received commendations from the RTD Transit Police at the February 28 RTD Board of Directors Meeting.

Karon Heckard, 16, not knowing that he would soon exhibit the coolest display of grace under pressure, boarded a bus on the afternoon of January 28. Two men boarded the bus several stops after Karon. One of the men dropped a .357 Magnum while the other brandished a shotgun. Karon sensed everyone on the bus was frightened by this show of arms but no one said anything. "I got off the bus at the corner of Firestone and Compton. I tried to be as cool as I could be. I pretended to tie my shoe as the bus passed me. Then I immediately called the Firestone Sheriff Station to inform them that there were two armed men on the bus." Through the quick action of Karon, both men were apprehended. The guns were recovered, along with \$6,000 which the men were carrying. "I was glad no one got hurt," said Karon. "I didn't do this to be a hero — somebody had to do something." Karon is an Explorer Scout and attends Dominguez Hills High School in Compton/Paramount. He would like to be a Deputy Sheriff or RTD Transit Policeman. Karon was presented with a commendation from the RTD Transit Police at the February 28 RTD Board of Directors Meeting.



Telephone information operators receive instruction on giving travel directions to patrons.



Karon Heckard



# Pass Your Assets On to Those That Count

by Cherry Trumbull

*Editor's Note: Headway is pleased to present the second in a series of articles devoted to a variety of legal issues and concerns. This column is intended to provide general information only, not specific legal advice. For advice regarding specific legal matters, readers are advised to consult an attorney. The authors of this column welcome any comments or questions from readers. Send letters to: Headway, Second Floor, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.*

People often call a lawyer, not sure that they need to have a Will prepared and knowing very little about what purposes a Will can serve and what rules will apply to their estates if they die without a Will. If you are wondering whether you need a Will, read on. This article will answer some of your questions and give a brief overview of how California law (called the "law of succession") works if you die without a Will.

## California Law of Succession

If you are married and if all of your assets are the **community property** of yourself and your spouse, all of your assets will pass to your spouse if you die without a Will. If you are unmarried, or if you are married and you own both **community property** and **separate property** assets, and if you die without a Will, California law could distribute your estate (or the separate property portion of your estate) in ways that might surprise you.

Before looking at that law, it is important to understand what is community property and what is separate property. Community property is very broadly defined to include all property acquired by spouses during marriage which is not acquired as the separate property of either. Thus, the earnings of both spouses are their community property, and so are the assets they buy and investments they make with those earnings. If you

are unmarried, your property is all separate property. If you are married, your separate property includes all the assets you owned before marriage and all the assets you acquired during the marriage by gift or inheritance, along with all the income and profit earned on such separate property, if those assets are kept separate and not treated as community property. For example, if you are given or if you inherit \$10,000, so long as you keep that cash in an account in your name alone, it will remain your separate property and all the interest earned on that account will be your separate property. How-

ever, if you deposit that cash in an account in the names of yourself and your spouse, or if you use it to buy a house or a car in the names of yourself and your spouse, it will be presumed that you have changed your separate property into community property, and the account, house or car is likely to be treated as community property after your death.

Now, then, to the laws that determine who takes your separate property if you die with no Will. The rules are presented below in chart form.

Will in the following circumstances:

1. If you have minor children, you should have a Will which names a guardian and a trustee who can manage your estate for them if your spouse does not survive you. If you do not take care of these matters, the court will name a guardian, but will severely restrict the guardian's ability to deal with your estate for the benefit of your children. Also, the law will require that each of your children receive his or her share of your estate at age 18, regardless of the child's maturity. Thus, serious problems can arise. First, the courts are often reluctant to approve guardians' expenditures for minors and it is expensive and time-consuming to obtain the necessary court approval. Second, if the estate is large, it might be unwise to distribute a child's share of it to him or her at age 18, but this is what the law would require. Third, the court might appoint as guardian someone you would not approve. You can avoid all of these problems in a properly written Will that names a guardian and a trustee for your minor children and specifies exactly how your estate is to be managed for those children, and at what ages it is to be distributed to them.

2. If you are concerned that your spouse might remarry after your death and then leave your estate to a new husband or wife or to children of a new marriage, you should consider writing a Will to leave your estate in a trust for your spouse during his or her life. The trust can be designed to meet your surviving spouse's needs, but it will ensure that, on that spouse's death, any part of your estate which remains will pass to your intended beneficiaries.

3. Estate tax planning will be the subject of a future article. However, if you are married and if you and your spouse have a combined marital estate that has a current value of more than \$400,000 (do not forget to include life insurance which you own), substantial federal death taxes can be avoided on the second spouse's death, but only by means of a properly written Will.

4. Finally, although you might want your assets to pass to just those persons who would take it by law even if you die without a Will, you might consider preparing a Will simply to give your survivors the emotional comfort of knowing that you thought about them and truly wanted them to inherit your estate.

Thus, a properly drafted Will can allow you to designate who will receive the financial benefits of your estate, as well as providing for the care of your minor children. A future article will deal with the estate tax savings which can be realized through a professionally prepared Will.

*Cherry Trumbull specializes in Estate Planning and Probate. She is a Partner with the law office of Glassman & Browning, Inc. in Beverly Hills. She has been practicing law for eight years.*

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<p><b>If you leave no Will and you are survived by:</b> Spouse and no children Spouse and one child</p> <p>Spouse and more than one child</p> <p>No spouse, but one or more children Spouse and parents, but no children</p> <p>No spouse, no children, no grandchildren, no great-grandchildren, etc.</p> <p>No spouse, no children, etc., no parents, no brothers or sisters or children, etc., of brothers or sisters</p>	<p><b>Your separate property goes to:</b> All to your spouse 1/2 to your spouse and 1/2 to your child 1/3 to your spouse and 2/3 to be divided equally among your children All to your children in equal shares 1/2 to your spouse and 1/2 to your parents (but if both parents are dead, this 1/2 goes to your parents' issue, which means your brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, etc.) All to your parents and if no parent survives, all to your brothers and sisters, or to the children, etc., of your deceased brothers and sisters All to your next of kin, which means to your grandparents, if any, or to aunts and uncles, or to cousins, depending upon who is closest to you in blood relationship (if no blood relatives can be found, your estate will pass to the State of California)</p>
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Remember your Secretary. April 21-27, 1985 is Professional Secretaries Week. April 24, 1985 is Professional Secretaries Day.

Depending upon your marital and family status, you can see that if you die without a Will, your separate property estate (or your entire estate, if you are single) might pass to persons who do not need it, persons you do not even know, or persons you do not like. If one of these situations applies to you, you need a Will.

## Planning Opportunities with a Will

Assume that you are content with the California laws which would pass all of your community property to your spouse and/or divide your separate property among your spouse and children, or your spouse and parents, etc. You still should consider making a

## Recreation News

A fun filled Las Vegas weekend is set for April 26-27 at the Dunes Hotel on the strip. The \$70.00 per person price (based on double occupancy) includes round trip transportation via air conditioned bus, 2 nights deluxe accommodations at the Dunes, taxes, portage in/out of the hotel and complimentary refreshments on the bus. Trip will depart the Headquarters building at 6:00 p.m. on April 26 with pickup at El Monte station. It will return approximately 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Act quickly, space is limited.

# The Time Is Ripe To Glorify Your Garden

This month is a fine time to plan the renewal of a yard whose age may be beginning to show.

You can call in the local nursery for a complete overhaul, or you can save about half a landscaper's fee by doing most of the work yourself.

Some suggestions for restyling your yard in contemporary dress:

- Talk first to several nurseries. Many will advise you (for free) on plants and plantings that do well in your area.
- Next, pore over the house and garden magazines and books at the library. Note what landscaping goes with the architecture style of your home.
- Take a trip around town and make notes on some of the plantings and designs that appeal to you.
- Go to garden exhibits to find out what landscape architects have come up with in new styles, new materials. (Many opt for railroad ties, pine mulch, bark chips and/or small, white stones, all decorative and serviceable.)
- Make a sketch of a plan for the whole yard. Include what your research has inspired in:
  - Terrace or walk, made of flagstones, brick, concrete, wood chips or loose stones.
  - Fencing: rails to grow roses on, or tall, alternating boards to screen out a view.



- Playground, with a bark ground cover.
- Gardens: flowers, including zinnias, yellow daliahs and two-toned gaillardias. (These will keep your vases full all summer too.) Vegetables in a small kitchen garden, with carrots, zucchini, tomatoes and herbs.

- Gazebo, made of lattice or slats (for shade, air and privacy).
- Wading pool, jacuzzi, splashing fountain, birdbath or something else wet.

An uplift can be undertaken in stages. (Transplanting is best left for fall, anyway.)

## Tree Treatment

Be kind to your trees and they will provide you with abundant foliage, indefinitely.

Trees that look sick and scraggly may simply need a new diet. A good fertilizer (10-5-5 or 10-8-6; percentages of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium) may bring them back to vigor and health. You need about 3 to 5 pounds of fertilizer per inch of the tree trunk's diameter. (Roots usually match the branch spread.)

For large trees, put the fertilizer in holes dug 6 to 12 inches apart and 8 to 16 inches deep. Circle the tree, starting at the drip line (where the longest branches reach). Make a second circle inside the outer one, and for good sized trees, a third circle. Cover about half the area between the drip line and the tree trunk.

For small trees use less fertilizer in smaller holes placed closer together.

A dose of fertilizer every two years is good for trees, even the healthy ones.

## Put the Putt Back in Your Lawnmower

Ten steps to a lawnmower tune-up:

- Clean the exterior engine with a spray cleaner.
- Unhook the spark plug lead. Remove and clean (or replace) the spark plug.
- Clean (or replace) the air filter.
- Remove the blade.
- Have the blade sharpened and balanced (or replaced) by a hardware-store pro.
- Clean the underside of the mower.
- Lubricate the wheels.
- Tighten loose screws and bolts.
- Fill with fresh gas and oil.
- Start mowing.

## Yesterday's Yawns Gone from Today's Awnings

Awnings are not as old hat as you may have thought. Awning fabrics (besides canvas: vinyl laminates, dacrons, acrylics) now come in contemporary colors and designs (solids, stripes, fringes, carved edges, colored borders, curves and angles). They serve well over windows, doors, porches and patios. Some can be rolled out from trim metal containers (eliminating the old droopy look of a raised, folded awning). Some can remain outside all year round.

Awnings help air conditioners work more efficiently by cutting back the heat hitting the house, by 50 to 75 percent in some cases.

## You Know You're Older When:

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.

You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.

Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.

You get winded playing chess.

Your children begin to look middle-aged.

You finally reach the top of the ladder, and you find it leaning against the wrong wall.

You join a health club and don't go.

You begin to outlive enthusiasm.

You decide to procrastinate but never got around to it.

Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.

A dripping faucet causes uncontrollable bladder urge.

You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You walk with your head held high trying to get used to your bifocals.

Your favorite part of the newspaper is Twenty-Five Years Ago Today.

You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reasons.

You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.

Your knees buckle but your belt won't.

You regret all those temptations you resisted.

You're 17 around the neck, 44 around the waist, and 105 around the golf course.

You stop looking forward to your next birthday.

After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat.

Dialing long distance wears you out.

You are startled the first time someone calls you Old-Timer.

You remember today that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.

You just can't stand people who are intolerant.

The best part of your day is over when the alarm clock goes off.

You burn the midnight oil after 9:00 p.m.

Your back goes out more often than you do.

A fortune teller offers to read your face.

Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl walk by.

The little old gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.

You get all your exercise being pallbearer for your friends who exercise.

You've got too much room in the house and not enough room in the medicine cabinet.

You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

—RTD Riverside Retirees  
Social Club Newsletter

- Retiring Soon?
- A Family Death?
- Survivor Benefits?

## CALL SOCIAL SECURITY

File your Social Security Claim by telephone and save yourself a trip to the Social Security Office. You can do it by telephone! Call (213) 688-4277

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN FRONT OF YOU WHEN YOU CALL:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER - OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

THE KIND OF BENEFITS YOU WANT INFORMATION ABOUT: \_\_\_\_\_

RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_; DISABILITY \_\_\_\_\_; SURVIVORS \_\_\_\_\_

THE DATE YOU WILL RETIRE OR HAD TO QUIT WORKING: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST YEAR'S EARNINGS: \_\_\_\_\_ THIS YEAR'S EARNINGS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF DEATH IF APPLICABLE: \_\_\_\_\_

## How To Cope with Retirement

Many couples look forward to retirement with great expectations and fantasies of a new life together. But adjusting to retirement often creates considerable stress in a relationship, particularly during the first year. It is helpful to have a more realistic idea about what to expect.

For example, it is quite common for the working spouse to feel a period of disorientation or even deep depression at first, even if he or she has prepared for coming retirement. When one's personal identity has been greatly influenced by work, a daily structure, social relationships at work, and a feeling of contributing to a job well done, retirement is a big transition.

People who have not cultivated other interests or who have difficulty with unstructured time may find themselves particularly anxious at first. It often helps to arrange some daily social activity — a class, a volunteer activity — in order to avoid the two most common problems, boredom and loneliness. Activity will help a retiree cope with the depression and blues that accompany change. Remember that *all* big lifestyle changes take time for adjustment; it is quite natural and very normal to have difficulty at first.

Most couples find the second year of retired life much more satisfying, and subsequent years even more so. One major change that

often occurs in a relationship following retirement is the increased amount of time that the couple then spends together. A chance is provided for renewed exploration of each other's ideas and feelings. A chance finally arrives to put into action long-delayed plans. While this is something they may have looked forward to, it is not unusual for them to feel a little uncomfortable with it. However, they shouldn't be discouraged. They shouldn't feel that they *always* have to be together or do things together. After all, they are still two separate people with separate interests.

Even happily retired couples need separate interests, activities, and time alone.

# COMMENDATIONS AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

## COMMENDATIONS

### Division 1

Torres, Fernando  
Williams, Sammie

### Division 2

Andrews, Derald L.  
Benjamin, Aaron  
Brooks, Tommie  
Jackson, Charles  
Jackson, Priscilla  
Liggins, Jeffrey  
Moody, Melbourne  
Mustin, Janice  
Myles, Booker  
Nakauchi, Jerry  
Rivadeneira, Alberto  
Saavedra, P.

### Division 3

Anderson, Donald  
Brown, Lee  
Busby, Larry  
Chiriboga, Albert  
Coleman, Barbara  
Domenech, Carlos  
Esquivel, Michael  
Fulwiley, Willie  
Rodriguez, R.F.  
Rojas, Salvador  
Simmons, Vernon  
Wageman, Robert  
Willes, Kenneth

### Division 5

Alexander, Gregory  
Amerson, Horace  
Brown, Louis  
Ellis, Lester  
Holmes, Samuel  
Jones, Darrell  
Jones, Grace  
McMurray, Evon  
Pope, Charles

### Division 6

Washington, Fred  
Williams, Jennifer  
Wilson, Daniel  
Wilson, San

### Division 7

Banks, Diane  
Duncan, Raymond  
Ellison, Robert  
Gage, Gregory  
Goldstein, Norman  
Hoffman, Elton  
Matkins, Eric  
McMillan, Charles  
Mills, Gregory  
Nesby, Bill  
Pena, Juan

### Division 8

Davis, Terry  
Pacheco, John  
Schmidt, Leonard  
Yurko, Charles

### Division 9

Allen, Huie  
Cervantes, David  
Davis, Dennis  
Edenhofer, Louis  
Estrada, Mike  
Jennings, Lloyd  
Johnson, William  
La Curan, James  
Remond, David  
Sterling, C.W.

### Division 10

Banks-Byrd, Elnora  
Crudup, Sandra  
Figueroa, Maria  
Lewisa, Diane  
McGuire, Diane  
Wright, Richard

### Division 12

Fretwell, Merrill  
Hoffman, Elton  
Hutchinson, Lee  
Lyons, Bruce  
Mason, Maso  
Polanco, Narciso

### Division 15

Bohler, Timothy  
Navarro, Christopher  
Van Eyck, Manuel  
White, Paul  
Williams, Lester  
Williams, Robert

### Division 16

Albert, Lester  
Bayless, Harry  
Hart, Raymond  
Hurley, Joe  
Sanchez, Raul

### Division 18

Hill, Fred  
King, Irene  
Lemon, Lorraine  
Murphy, Paul  
Nahra, George  
Robinson, Isaiah  
Velasquez, Jose

### Division 23

Luke, Gerald

### Location 32

Edwards, Ruth  
Wimbly, Laddie

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

**Anderson, Leesa K.**, from Program Control Analyst to Acting Senior Program Control Analyst.

**Bawa, Daljit**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Bennett, Michael**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Bonner, Jack H.**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Brown, William R.**, from Senior Program Control Analyst to Acting Supr. Program Control Analyst

**Camacho, Paul**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Cash, Robin D.**, from Op/Ex Transit Ops Supervisor to Transit Ops Supervisor.

**Ceballos, Frank L.**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Colantonio, Joseph A.**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Cooper, Joyce E.**, from Stock Shop Clerk to Storekeeper.

**Christensen, Charles W.**, from Electronic Communications Technician to Electronic Communications Technician Leader.

**Eley, Patricia K.**, from Equipment Rec Spec to Sr. Equipment Rec Spec.

**Estrada, Frank**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Fisher, Clinton**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Fisher, Lyall**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Flournoy, "C"**, from Transit Ops Supervisor to Acting Radio Dispatch Supervisor.

**Fowler, Jesse**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Gardner, John C.**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Harden, Everett**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Hernandez, Fred A.**, from Service Attendant to Property Maintainer A.

**Howard, Jean C.**, from Temporary Typist Clerk to Typist Clerk.

**Hughes, John**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Jones, Nathaniel M.**, from Op/Ex-Trans Ops Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

**Judson, Charles**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Lujan, Thomas**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Miller, Wayne E.**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Moreno, Joseph J.**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Muhne, Gerald**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Natawidjaja, Frieda**, from Data Entry Operator to Schedule Maker I.

**Norman, Alvin J.**, from General Clerk - Marketing to Ticket Clerk.

**Phillips, Kelly J.**, from Janitor to Mopper Waxer.

**Reed, Charles R.**, from Storekeeper to Acting Assistant Stores Supervisor.

**Rocio, "A"**, from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

**Sarmiento, Carmelita**, from Clerk to Temporary General Clerk.

**Sermeno, Jesse**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Smith, Philip G.**, from Transit Operations Supervisor to Senior Instructor of Vehicle Operations.

**Stack, Patrick**, from Schedule Maker II to Senior Schedule Maker.

**Takamiyashiro, Brian**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Thomas, Grace L.**, from Opr/Ex Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

**Torres, Jose**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Wiley, Deserie A.**, from Word Processing Operator I to Acting Telephone Service Rep.

## SHIFTING GEARS

**Alford, Danny**, an Operator since November 21, 1974, retired February 21, 1985.

**De la Torre, Ignacio**, an Operator since July 21, 1956, retired February 16, 1985.

**Fleming, William**, a Senior Instructor of Vehicle Operations, employed February 28, 1946, retired February 19, 1985.

**Frustaci, Earl**, an Operator since June 20, 1947, retired January 31, 1985.

**Fuller, James**, a Transit Operations Supervisor, employed April 24, 1956, retired February 27, 1985.

**Hamilton, Dale**, an Operator since September 1, 1951, retired February 28, 1985.

**Hammond, Joe**, an Operator since June 20, 1960, retired February 28, 1985.

**Hirano, Takeshi**, an Electrician Leader, employed February 10, 1960, retired February 15, 1985.

**Lambeth, Ermel**, an Operator since July 7, 1947, retired February 27, 1985.

**Lasdon, William**, an Operator since February 13, 1975, retired February 28, 1985.

**Leal, William**, an Operator since June 23, 1947, retired February 16, 1985.

**Lutz, Louis**, a Transit Operations Supervisor, employed February 16, 1955, retired February 28, 1985.

**Manus, Ruth**, an Office Supervisor, employed since January 2, 1975, retired February 25, 1985.

**Mizer, William**, an Operator since December 2, 1974, retired February 7, 1985.

**Rhodes, Henry**, an Equipment Maintenance Supervisor II, employed February 25, 1952, retired February 28, 1985.

**Ritch, Horace R.**, a Schedule Checker since October 30, 1965, retired October 30, 1984.

**Royal, Robert**, an Operator since September 9, 1961, retired February 8, 1985.

**Seelbinder, Raymond**, an Operator since May 23, 1956, retired February 9, 1985.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Baca, Louis**, a former Operator, passed away January 1, 1984.

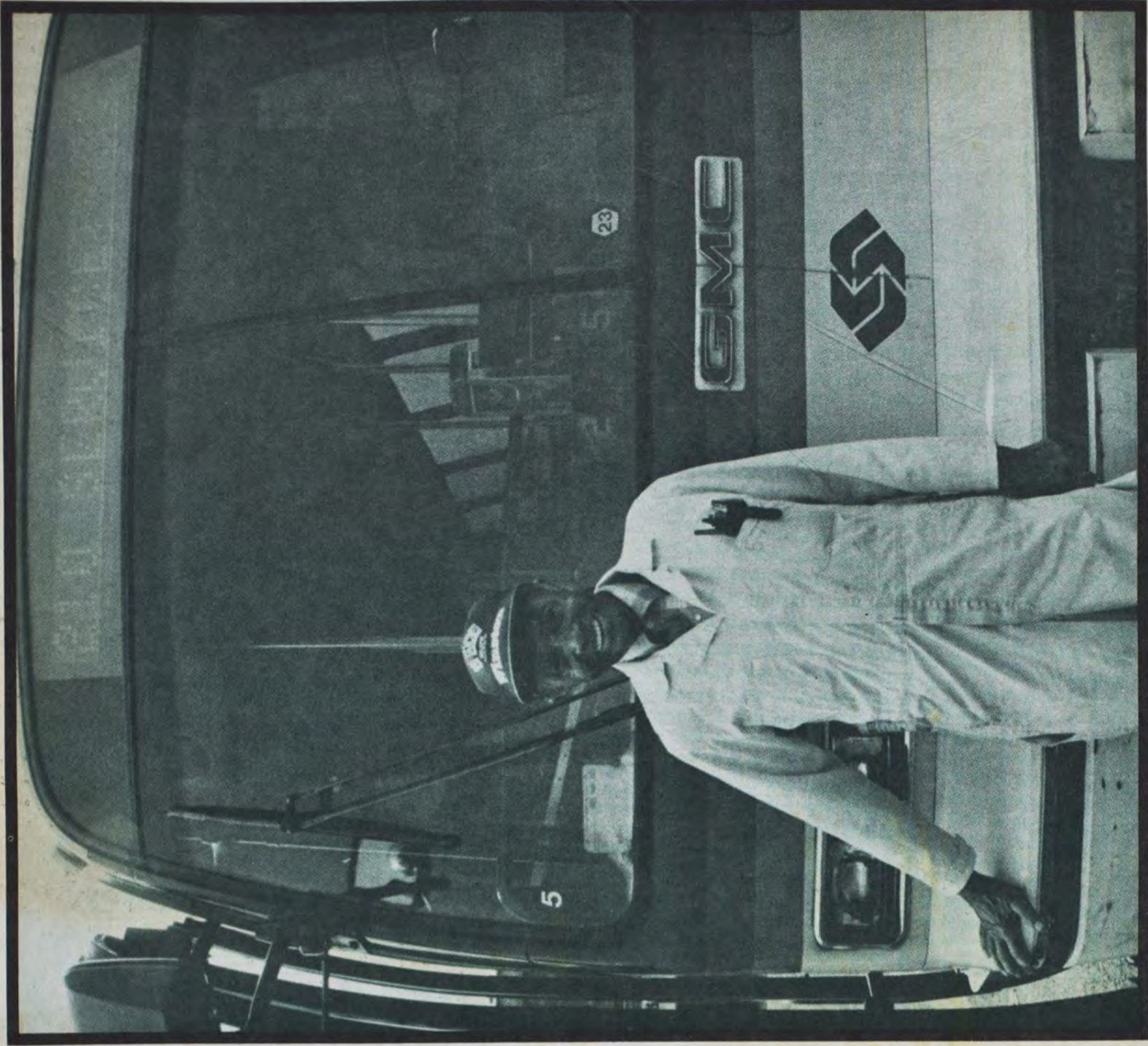
**Johnson, Lawrence**, a former Mechanic, passed away October 15, 1984.

## TRIPPERS

Division 8 Operator Fred M. Strom's lifetime ridership has gone over 1 million in his 33 years with the District.

Strom, 60, started his career as a motorman in the Chicago elevated system, followed by similar service in the Los Angeles Pacific Electric Railway Company. Strom drove buses for the Metropolitan Transit Authority which later evolved into the RTD.

Strom recalled that since age 11, he decided the uniform of a bus operator was exciting and indicated power. He couldn't wait until he could put on one of his own. "In 1983 I was awarded a gold watch for 30 years of safe driving. I like this kind work. It is steady and clean. Our working conditions are good and we make good wages," Strom said.



# HEADWAY



Arthur Winston—RTD's Mr. Seniority

## Of Special Interest

Tickets for two fine plays available. Orchestra seats both at discounted prices. — *Cats*, April 14 and May 5, \$31.50; *La Cage Aux Follies*, April 19, \$31.50.

Concerts: At the Universal Amphitheatre. — Wynton Marsalis, April 24, \$14.00; Madonna, April 27, \$15.00; Julian Lennon, May 1, \$16.50; Eddie Murphy, May 9, \$21.50.

Close the Lakers and Clippers basketball season with games on April 12, Lakers vs. Seattle at the Forum, \$7.50; and Clippers vs. Dallas, April 15, Sports Arena, \$8.00.

**For Sale**  
Full length mink coat, size 13/14. Original price \$4,500, has been appraised at \$2,500. Will sell for \$1,500 or best offer. Call (805) 497-9346 anytime.



Southern California Rapid Transit District  
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## HEADWAY

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