

HEADWAY



Division 6
Comeback

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Battle Plan Set for Vandalism	3
Board Awards Stage Two Station Contract	4
Safe Performance Quarter Awards	5
Operators Honored at Kings Game	6
O'Brien Appointed Head of Rail Operations	7
Promoting the Corporate Pass	9
Lasers Blaze Trail for Metro Rail	13
Subway is Earthquake Proof	14
Fare Box Fixer	16
RTD Joins Madrino/Padrino Program	19
Our Own Movie Maker	20
Flo-Jo Comes Back to Division 6	21
Division 18 on the Court with B Ball	23

Corrections

The story in the April 1989 issue titled, "Service Improves While Reducing Costs," omitted some qualifying language. The sentence in question: "By comparison, when the current (drug and alcohol) program first began in September of 1985, the percent positive was 20.5 of all District employees." With the correct phrase added, the sentence should have read: "By comparison, when the current program first began in September of 1985, the percent positive was 20.5 of all District employees *who were tested.*"

In the April 1989 issue we goofed in reporting who Wanda J. Bell married. It was not Bobbie Hall, but Bobby Hicks. We apologize for the misinformation.

In the March 1989 issue Part-time Operator Rudy Krause's Meritorious Operator award was misreported under Attendance, it was for Operations.

Money in 10 Days

As a homeowner you can have
\$17,500 in 10 Days

- Homewoners New and Old!
- Landscaping
- Remodeling
- Room Additions
- Home Improvement Purposes

100% Tax Deductible

- No Appraisal Required
- Also for Rental Properties
- No Prepayment Penalty
- No Equity Loan - \$251/mo. 15 yrs.
- 2 Day Approval
- Up to \$43,750 for Units

Real Estate Loans

Now's the time to finance or refinance and
save thousands of dollars \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

- Adjustable 6.875%
- Fixed 10.25%
- (Loans for High Risk Credit Also Available)
- Rates Subject to Change

Se Habla Espanol

Free Consultation & Information

- Home Improvement Loan
- Bill Consolidation Loan
- 1st & 2nd Real Estate Loans
- Fixed and Adjustable
- Free Real Estate Loan Evaluation
- Free Referral Service to Qualified Real Estate Brokers

- Financing For Commercial & Residential
- FHA/VA /Conventional

EAGLE MORTGAGE BANKERS

530 E. Alosta • Glendora • (818) 914-2796

Battle Plan Set for Vandalism and Graffiti

The RTD Board of Directors March 9 approved a comprehensive plan designed to keep the fleet clean of graffiti and encourage more severe punishment for vandals and graffiti artists.

"Vandalism on RTD buses has become a grave problem," said RTD Board

*"It's time
to
get
serious
about a
solution."*

President Gordana Swanson. "It's time to get serious about a solution. We hope this action plan shows our riders that we are intent on giving them clean, attractive buses.

"We also want our action to send a message to vandals that we will no longer tolerate defacement of public property."

Director Larry Gonzalez will chair a committee of five directors whose task will be to carry out the elements of the plan. Serving with Gonzalez will be Jeff Jenkins, Kenneth Thomas, and Joseph Dunning.

The annual cost of keeping RTD's fleet graffiti-free has grown from \$5 million two years ago to almost \$8.4 million today,

General Manager Alan Pegg reported. The abatement program is estimated to cost an additional \$870,000 for the remainder of fiscal year 1989.

The elements of the plan are as follows:

- Expansion of the Police Graffiti Task Force effort.
- Formations of advisory committees in selected corridors that would involve citizens and public officials in an effort to propose new strategies for battling vandalism.
- Visiting of area schools in coordination with the County Office of Education and the City Youth Employment Training Program to form "Clean Teams."
- "Anti-Graffiti Day" near the end of September,

*"(Graffiti)...is a major
symbol of the
deteriorating
quality of life
in Los Angeles and
must receive the
highest level
of attention."*

proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles City Council, to announce further District plans to combat vandalism.

- A rider survey to

assess the public's perception of the District's efforts to battle vandalism.

- Development of an offenders work program, where those who are convicted of vandalism to District equipment would be required to help clean the equipment.

- Improved reporting of graffiti and vandalism incidents through a "Hot Line" system and strengthening of "We Tip" reward system for the reporting of offenders.

- A state-wide legislative effort to dedicate funds for graffiti removal and prevention.

- Expansion of fleet rehabilitation program.

- Expansion of seat replacement program.

- Expansion of graffiti-cleaning efforts. This would include the addition of service attendants for a "zero-defect" demonstration project at Division 6 with the objective of holding in any bus that is not fully cleaned and free of graffiti.

- Public awareness through the distribution of video tape showing vandalism being carried out on RTD buses.

The cost of vandalism and graffiti isn't just in dollars, Swanson said. It is a "major symbol of the deteriorating quality of life in Los Angeles, and must receive the highest level of attention. No one can afford to allow further deterioration of the regional transit system."

Future Rail Systems Dubbed "The Metro"

Under the operation of the RTD the Metro Rail subway system and the light rail system will become an integrated system known as "the Metro."

The subway portion will be known as the Red Line. Its route will begin at Union Station downtown and follow an all-subway alignment through Hollywood to North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley.

*The single name
for the
two systems
and the
color designations
were part of a
recent
agreement between
the RTD and the
LACTC.*

The light rail portion, being built by the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) and known previously as the Long Beach-Los Angeles Light Rail Line, will be called the Blue Line.

continued on page 6

Board Awards Stage Two Station Contract

The Board of Directors March 23 awarded an \$118.6 million contract to Tutor-Saliba Corporation of Sylmar for Stage II work on the Seventh and Flower Street Metro Rail Station.

Stage II work consists of the completion work to station construction such as architectural, landscaping, and final mechanical and electrical work.

The winning contractor is performing work in joint ventures on four other Metro Rail contracts, including tunneling and station work at the future Union Station site.

By the end of February 1989, 34 of the 64 available contracts on the first 4.4-mile segment of Metro Rail had been awarded at a total value of \$493.6 million.

Seven contracts have been completed. Four of them involved the clearing of land for construction; two were for various utility work and one was the completion of the Maintenance of Way building.

Of the nearly nine miles of twin tunnels to be dug for Phase I, 15,600 tons of steel have been erected in future Metro Rail station sites, and more than 77,300 cubic yards of concrete have been poured.

"Before 1989 is over, we will complete the tunnels between Wilshire and Alvarado, and Seventh and Flower Street Stations, and our main yards and

shops building," said Assistant General Manager for Transit Systems Development Bill Rhine. "A color scheme has been selected for our rail cars, and we will soon see manufacturing of them begin."

The project was 28 percent complete at the end of February, 1989, Rhine said, with 46 percent of the anticipated \$1.25 billion in project costs expended.

There are 169 pending contract claims and 295 pending contract changes, and there have been 366

Stage II work consists of the completion work to station construction such as architectural, landscaping, and final mechanical and electrical work.

executed change orders for a combined estimated value of \$62.9 million as of February 24, 1989. Settlements often are considerably less than the original amount claimed by the contractor, but the full amount of the claim is accounted for when figuring budget status.

Also, some of the pending claims and changes may be withdrawn before becoming

actual change orders.

"We monitor the number of claims and changes to track the trend of such activities," Rhine said. "For a project of this size, we are on track."

A number of tunnels and stations will be excavated by the end of 1989, and manufacture of Metro Rail's cars is scheduled to begin this month, Rhine said.

Other Phase I construction milestones for 1989 include:

- Five tunnel excavations to be completed.
- Three station excavations to be completed.
- First delivery of "contact" rail, or the "third" rail that provides electric current to subway cars, is expected.

- Manufacture to begin of rail cars and fare collection equipment.

- Contracts for Stage II work (tiling, artwork, station esthetics, and final touches) at two more stations to be awarded.

Work on finalizing environmental studies for Phase 2 of Metro Rail is nearing completion, and a funding contract with the federal government is anticipated by mid-year. A benefit assessment task force is holding public meetings in areas through which Phase 2 will travel. The task force will recommend assessment district boundaries to the Board later this year.

TMC's Returned To Service

Ninety-six new TMC buses were returned to service by April 15 after being removed in March because of a defect in the brackets supporting the rear axle.

Manufactured by the Transportation Manufacturing Corporation, those buses pulled from service are part of a fleet of 267 new coaches acquired by the District in August of 1988.

General Manager Alan Pegg said: "The defect appears to involve coaches that have been driven 20,000 miles or more. The manufacturers have developed a temporary retrofit bracket that will increase support to the rear

... older buses were deployed...

axle by installing a secondary support strap."

Both TMC and Rockwell International, manufacturer of the support bracket, developed the temporary fix in order to return the buses to service as soon as possible.

To avoid service interruptions, older buses were deployed to replace newer coaches sidelined by the defect. No lines were canceled, but patrons experienced some service frequency adjustments.

Safe Performance Quarter Awards



Division 16 Maintenance Manager Ted Desy, far left, with Mechanic A Larry Rausch, center, and Supervisor Joe Quintero.

Maintenance Division 16 and Transportation Division 6 were awarded Safe Performance honors for the fourth quarter of 1988 at the February 23 Board of Directors' Meeting.

Division 16 Manager Ted Desy accepted a plaque on behalf of his division and was awarded a bonus check of \$100. The primary reason Division 16 was recognized was their winning statistics.

"The staff takes the few extra minutes it takes to ensure that an accident won't happen."

They reduced lost time injuries from 15.7 reports per 100,000 hours to 6.0 reports in the fourth quarter. The general manager's goal is 8.0 lost time injuries per 100,000

hours. Division 16 is 2.0 incidents below it. During the quarter, the division worked 1,537 more hours than the prior quarter and still reduced their lost time injuries by 9.7 reports.

During the third quarter the division worked 6,206 hours between lost time injuries. In the fourth quarter they worked 16,283 between lost time injuries which is an increase of 162 percent more hours between accidents.

Ted Desy claims he is lucky because he supervises mechanics who are very safety conscious. "The staff takes the few extra minutes it takes to ensure that an accident won't happen. Safety is not an hourly task—it's awareness all the time," said Desy.

He believes the RTD is about safe, dependable, clean service to the public. "Notice safety is first," he stresses.

The division holds regular safety meetings and

has won the award three times previously. "Safety is like common sense, it has got to be bred into people. No one can take credit for safety. Everyone performs to the best of their ability and we are all responsible." Desy has been with the RTD for 17 years, he started with the District as a diesel mechanic.



Jim Lukens at Division 6.

Acting Manager of Division 6 Jim Lukens accepted the Safety Performance Award on behalf of his division. This is the seventh time the division has earned this award since 1976.

Most notably, the division reduced its lost time injuries from 24.5 reports per 100,000 hours to 7.0 per 100,000. The general manager's goal is a 7.0 frequency rate. During the third quarter the employees worked 3,979 hours between lost time injuries. Within the fourth quarter they worked 13,888 hours between lost time injuries which is an increase of 249 percent.

Jim Lukens says he always looks very carefully at the employees sick list. He meets with employees who have had occupational injuries and makes phone calls home. "I have a good rapport with employees. Everyone knows I'll call them when they go sick. I like to get started off on the right foot," said Lukens.

When it comes to accidents Lukens is just as vigilant. He will conduct an

intensive investigation even if it means getting on the bus himself and retracing the route. "I send letters, call them, get diagrams, recreate the accident through pictures, take measurements, and get

"Communication is vital, but remember, people are human, and we all work for the same company."

statements from riders." Working closely with Risk Management and the District claims administrator ARS, and Quality Assurance, Lukens will sift through all the facts and make a determination. "I

continued on page 6...

Buses Added to Lines to Reduce Overcrowding

On March 6, the District began adding 20 buses to selected lines to reduce overcrowding and improve service for patrons during morning and afternoon rush

hours on the heaviest traveled lines.

The added service will increase the frequency of buses between one to five minutes in most cases.

Safe Performance

...continued from page 5

don't have a win-loss factor in accidents, I have a learning factor involved here. I'm trying to learn as much as I can."

Lukens takes his responsibility for running a safety-aware division very seriously. "I won't quit on any employee. I figure it's my job to get them through this company to make it to retirement." He relies on verbal messages and resists the written. "Communication is vital, but remember, people are human, and we all work for the same company. The safety award was the operators because they did what I asked. I asked them to stay safety conscious... We even attached safety tips to paddles."

Lukens was the first manager at Division 6 to break ground on the single manager concept, that is, managing both the maintenance and transportation sections. He was awarded a safety bonus check for \$100. He has since been rotated to Division 12 and says he is very proud of his accomplishments at Division 6.

"The Metro"

...continued from page 3

The two lines will intersect at the Seventh and Flower street station, allowing passengers to change trains without leaving the station.

The single name for the two systems and the color designations were part of a recent agreement between the RTD and the LACTC. The agreement calls for the LACTC to assume responsibility for funding and building future subway extensions, and for RTD to operate the entire system.

"Having a single name, 'the Metro,' with simple color references for the different lines will eliminate confusion and help prepare the public for the opening of the Blue Line in 1990," said RTD Board President Gordana Swanson.

The Red Line, the first phase of which is being built beneath downtown Los Angeles, is scheduled to open in 1993 with service from Union Station to Wilshire Boulevard and Alvarado Street.

Operators Honored at Kings' Game

Division 18's Harold Peace was the grand prize winner among thirteen top bus operators who were chosen by riders and honored at the Los Angeles Kings game against the Winnipeg Jets on March 28 at the Forum.

The operators selected as the best by bus passengers were recognized by the Kings, a major supporter of public transit.

RTD serves

all of the

major sports venues

in Los Angeles

Also paying tribute to the bus operators were Board President Gordana Swanson and General Manager Alan Pegg.

"We are pleased to have the Los Angeles Kings, long a supporter of public transit in Los Angeles, join RTD in honoring those drivers whom the public considers to be our finest," said Mrs. Swanson.

The drivers are Alfred Mosley, Division 1; Fernando Arce, Division 3; Humberto Moreno, Division

5; Richard Wright, Division 6; Ralph Gilmer, Division 7; Richard Piche, Division 8; Benjamin Welch, Division 9; Patrick Villagrana, Division 10; Darrell Gibson, Division 12; Bruce Erlenmeyer, Division 15; Dale Aleshire, Division 16; Willie Haigler, Division 18; and Harold Peace, Division 18. Getting the most votes, Peace was selected the grand prize winner.

"RTD serves all of the major sports venues in Los Angeles in addition to the Forum, including the Sports Arena, Rose Bowl, Memorial Coliseum, and Dodger Stadium," said Pegg. "By taking a bus, passengers will find it an excellent way to support not only the Kings, but avoid traffic congestion, reduce air pollution, and eliminate parking charges."

Alitza Weiner of the "My Two Dads" television program sang the National Anthem before the game. She is an avid supporter of the District's Anti-Graffiti efforts.

Editor's Note: A complete photo story will be run on all the operators selected by riders in the June issue.

Mystery Baby

For those of you stumped by the mystery baby shown in the March issue, we'll relieve you from the frustration of guessing. Our baby

was Supervising Accounts Payable Clerk Wynston Perry. Wynston has been with the District for almost 10 years.

O'Brien Appointed Head of RTD Rail Operations

Paul O'Brien, 36, has been appointed Rail Operations Superintendent. He assumed his duties February 20.

A native of Pennsylvania, who grew up in Modesto, O'Brien will direct all rail operations for the District, that is, he will be responsible for all staffing, training, and performance standards of transportation personnel involved in light rail, Metro Rail, and the



Rail Operations Superintendent Paul O'Brien

his RTD duties. Before that, he was general operations manager at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). While with the CTA, O'Brien worked as a conductor and a motorman in order to understand the perspective of the operator out on the streets. When a student at UCLA, O'Brien briefly drove for the RTD in order to earn his tuition. He is a member of the American Public Transit Association's Operations Management and Control Center sub-committee.

O'Brien's personal goal is to reintroduce rail to Southern California in such a way that people not riding the bus now will come back to it. "By putting out first-class service we will attract new riders," said O'Brien. Drawing on his experience in Buffalo, he believes the potential for ridership is excellent here. "We tailored our service [there] to the

needs of the community. Our operators and supervisors were the key to our success. We kept lines of communication open between management and operators because we knew that they knew what was really happening," he said. Relying on the operators' information cues, the system was able to deal effectively with overcrowd-

ing and graffiti, among other problems.

"It's really exciting that we're getting rail back in Southern California. Once people ride it they'll enjoy it. The bus system will always be the backbone, but rail should help bring more riders to the bus. I'm looking forward to it," he said.

O'Brien and his wife, Hanne, reside in Whittier.

"The bus system will always be the backbone, but rail should help bring more riders to the bus."

Century Freeway projects. The Long Beach-Los Angeles light rail Blue Line system is due to open in July 1990, and Metro Rail's Red Line should begin service in 1993.

A magna cum laude graduate from UCLA with a B.A. degree in geography, O'Brien was assistant superintendent of rail transportation at the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority in Buffalo, New York prior to assuming

Maintenance of Way Building Completed

The Maintenance of Way building, a structure to be used jointly by Metro Rail and the Long Beach Light Rail line for rail maintenance activities, is the first facility of RTD's \$1.25 billion Metro Rail to be completed.

RTD Facilities Maintenance employees assigned to rail activation have moved into the second-story offices in the building; they include Superintendent Bud Moore, Supervisor of Electronics Bob Landers, Supervisor of Traction Power Richard Valloni, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Jack Jackson, Supervisor of Signals George Matejovsky, and Track Inspector Bill Bishop.

The structure, east of downtown Los Angeles near the riverbed, is on Santa Fe

Avenue next to the future Main Shops building where Metro Rail vehicles will be serviced.

"We wanted this building ready as soon as possible to support RTD's operation of the light rail line, set to open in the summer of 1990," said Assistant General Manager for Transit Systems Development Bill Rhine. "We achieved our goal on this phase of the Metro Rail construction project."

Future occupants of the building will include maintenance supervisors to be hired later this year and a unit of RTD Transit Police. The facility also will be used for storage of rail system maintenance equipment and will house an electronics repair room.

Moore Assumes Rail Facilities Post

Walter "Bud" Moore, 52, was appointed RTD Rail Facilities Superintendent. He accepted his assignment January 23.

The former Chicago native is now responsible for maintaining the Long Beach-Los Angeles light rail Red Line, the Metro Rail Blue Line, and the Norwalk-El Segundo rail facility. This includes maintenance of all tracks, power, signals, substations, rights of way, and the roadway; in short, everything except the rail car itself. He is currently overseeing the rail start-up activity including the development and implementation of training programs for District staff.

Moore obtained his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He went on and received a masters of science in mathematics from the same institution. Previous to the District, Moore worked for the Chicago Transit Authority for 26 years, leaving as the superintendent of power and way maintenance. He first started with the agency as an electrical testing engineer in 1963.

He looks forward to Southern California's rail start-up because it will be the most modern in the



Bud Moore will maintain the District's rail operations.

country. As a part of the rail team, "I will develop and maintain a railroad that is safe, reliable, and run in a service-oriented manner," said Moore. He says he can't imagine any accidents, such as the recent rail mishaps in Great Britain, occurring on the RTD lines because of the state-of-the-art signal system and based on the fact that the system is computer driven. "Human error was involved in England, here we have a fail-safe system. If the computer isn't functioning, the train stops."

Moore is an avid environmentalist, he enjoys free diving and spear fishing. He holds the North American record in spear fishing for the rare catch of a 40-pound yellowfin grouper. He enjoys diving off the Bahamas islands because the water is so clear, visibility extends for miles underwater. "I think that my concern for the environment is the reason I like rapid transit. It gets cars off the road and gives us cleaner air."

Rail is a win-win situation for everyone, says Moore. "I've suggested we

New Accessibility Brochure Available

by Ken Echard, Communications Representative

About 2,200 of the District's fleet of buses are wheelchair lift-equipped for the handicapped with nearly 500 more coming on line by 1994, announced Board President Gordana Swanson.

"RTD has 93 percent of its buses accessible with wheelchair equipment on 180 of the District's 194 lines," she said. "We have long done our utmost to provide accessible service since the first RTD lift-equipped bus arrived in Los Angeles in 1979."

The District adopted its policy of buying lift-equipped buses 15 years before the recent federal appeals court decision in Philadelphia. The ruling ordered the U.S. Department of Transportation to require transit agencies to equip new buses with

wheelchair lifts. "We are proud to have been a leader in this field," said Mrs. Swanson.

An updated brochure detailing accessible service for RTD bus patrons have been distributed throughout Los Angeles County to senior citizens, rehabilitation centers, and other organizations.

Some 13,000 of the new multi-colored "how to" brochures are now circulating. Featured among other informational notations is a section on new securement straps that can handle a larger assortment of wheelchairs.

The brochure explains how to use RTD's accessible service and on which lines driver-controlled, automated wheelchair lifts are available.

offer a Supertransfer for everyone during nonpeak hours. We would have the ability to accommodate the ridership we would generate and the Central Business District would benefit from the patronage, that's win-win."

Moore is currently negotiating with the Department of Water and Power to get a break on the District's power bill when the rail lines start running. "We will be a major user of electrical power in this area. If we can secure lower rates, we can in turn pass this

savings to the public and make it more affordable for them to ride and more cost-efficient for us operate. This should result in less cars on the freeway."

He is a member of the American Public Transit Association's Power Subcommittee and participated in authoring the Joint Trackwork-Electrical Design Guidelines. He is also a member of the Underwater Society of America.

Moore has two sons, Tom, 21, and Tim, 20, and resides in Cerritos.

Promoting the Corporate Pass



The Corporate Pass Program aims to be the talk of the town. Participating corporations receive certificates of appreciation from RTD Board President Gordana Swanson. Back row, from left to right: Sylvia Honri, Marketing and Graphics Manager for the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA); David B. Neumann, First Vice President, Security Pacific National Bank; Ed Langer, RTD Marketing and Communications Representative; Donald A. Murray, Vice President, ARCO; and Gordana Swanson, RTD Board President. Front row, from left to right: Sherrie Fernando, RTD Marketing and Communications Representative; Chris Conkling, Pool/Sarraille; and Alice Wiggins, RTD Promotions Unit Manager.

Local businesses required to comply with the Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Regulation XV guidelines are assisted by the RTD Marketing Department in implementing bus transit options for their employees.

Under AQMD's Regulation XV, organizations subject to the program who employ 100 or more persons

at any single work site are required to develop a plan that encourages employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled to and from work. The goal of Regulation XV is to reduce air pollution by reducing the number of vehicle trips taken daily between home and work.

The District's Corporate Pass Program is one way employers can help their

RTD To Assist Business with Bus Pass Program

Businesses in the City of Los Angeles are now required by an ordinance enacted March 30 to subsidize bus passes for their employees.

The ordinance, signed into law by Mayor Bradley, requires companies which employ more than 200 persons at a single location to subsidize monthly bus passes for workers, or provide vans for employee ridesharing. The program will expand to companies with 100 or more workers next year.

Companies that do not provide employee parking nor help workers pay for parking are exempt.

In a joint effort, the City and the RTD hope to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion. It is believed that the program will boost mass transit ridership among the private sector throughout the city.

The District sees this as an opportunity for management and workers to share an incentive which will be of

benefit to those who want to see smog reduced and a better quality of life made available to many workers.

With the new law, the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) will notify companies in Los Angeles that they must comply with the new ordinance when they submit their Trip Reduction Plan (TRP) to AQMD. The AQMD is responsible for monitoring compliance with the new law.

Under the program, subsidies in the amount of at least \$15 per month will be offered by employers to each employee for his or her use in commuting to and from work by transit.

The joint effort by the city and RTD is a part of the District's Corporate Pass Program, a program designed to assist major employers in implementing bus transit options for their employees to help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.

employees with alternative transportation and help reduce smog and traffic congestion at the same time.

The executives in this picture represent companies that actively participate in RTD's Corporate Pass Program. They were

presented RTD certificates of appreciation by RTD Board President Gordana Swanson for their participation in a photo session for an RTD Corporate Pass Program advertisement to appear in the *Downtown News* and *La Opinion*.

C PUBLIC COMMENDATIONS



Thanks for a Job Well Done!— From the folks we serve

Division 3201

Banks-Byrd, Elnora D.
Geathers, John L.
Rodriguez, Frank R.

Division 3203

Houdashelt, Stephanie
Payan, Michael A.

Division 3205

Carrera, Antonio A.
Cromer, Allen
Hicks, Patricia M.

Walker, Odell

Winston, Carl L.

Division 3206

Gustafson, Jerome L.

Division 3207

Bluford, Loyd
Collier, Lamont

Feldra, Larry

Johnson, John W.

Reguero, Jose

Division 3208

Brady, Richard K.

Long, Marshall

Torres, Juan M.

Woods, Brenda F.

Division 3209

Nielsen, Keith A.

Division 3210

Thompson, Larry

Division 3212

Scott, Alfred

Division 3215

Baylor, Fredrick A.

Butler, Bobby E.

Flores, Lucy A.

Hill, Timothy F.

Moore, Robert

Nails, Floyd

Penn, Clayton O.

Van Eyck, Manuel F.

Division 3218

Alexander, Theodore T.
Gosha, Thomas

To RTD Personnel:

Sometimes the first person I see in the mornings on my way to work is RTD driver Loyd Bluford. The way his face lights up when he smiles and says "Good Morning"—well, it just starts me off feeling real good. Just want you to know that he is appreciated and very special.

Also the driver on the 183 line, Robert Moore—during the two weeks he was driving, the bus was on time for the first time in months, making it possible for me to make my connection to the 212 at Hollywood Way & Magnolia at 5:12 pm. Special kudos to Robert Moore. His last day on 183 was March 3. I will miss him. He was a delight and very special with people.

Sincerely,
Joy Hyler

To the Rapid Transit District:

It was with pleasure that I write you, commending one of your drivers. He is Bobby Butler on Line 177, which I ride semi-regularly in the morning.

On February 15, 1989, I left my briefcase on said bus. I had done this before but at an airport in Hawaii.

There my briefcase was found and turned in and I recall the lost-and-found lady saying, "Only on Maui." Well, I had pretty much considered my briefcase gone for good as Los Angeles is quite different from Maui, but lo and behold, the next morning Bobby Butler informed me that he had found my briefcase and had turned it in. I went in two days later, claimed it, and found all the contents there.

It is nice to know the aloha spirit lives not only on Maui, but in Los Angeles as well.

Sincerely yours,
Keith K. Ah Sam

Consumer Affairs Section RTD

Gentlemen:

This letter is written in commendation of Mr. Alfred Scott who was my driver recently on a trip to San Pedro from Los Angeles.

In all my 45 years of riding RTD buses, I have never seen such kindness and courtesy shown to each passenger as that extended by Mr. Scott. He not only greets each person getting on his bus with a smile and a friendly manner but helpfully and willingly answers every question asked of him. He is also an excellent driver carefully observing the rules of the road.

RTD should be very proud of a driver like Mr. Scott and see that he is given utmost consideration for a promotion as soon as the opportunity arises. To ride with him is a joyful, unforgettable experience.

Very truly yours,
Eugene A. Lowrey

RTD Customer Relations

To Whom It May Concern:

Your organization of bus drivers, in my opinion are the best in the United States and I am certain is the end result of hard work and skillful instruction.

The reason I am writing is due to the consideration on the part of two exceptionally fine bus drivers. I had the extreme pleasure of riding on their buses. These two were Brenda Woods and Larry Feldra.

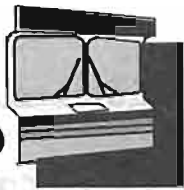
Ms. Woods is in my judgment an extraordinary lady. She has a quick mind and one that also reasons very well. She was exceptionally considerate of this person. This is what focused my attention on her bus driving talent. Like exceptionally good drivers, they take good care of their bus, their customers, and see that the fares are duly paid when they stop for a zone check. I am very glad that you have such a fine lady like Ms. Woods doing such a wonderful job of bus driving for the RTD. It indicates the superlative organization that designs her driving activities.

Consideration also, directed my attention to another multi-faceted bus driver, Larry Feldra. This gentleman is one who takes great pride in his work and it shows. Like all exceptionally fine bus drivers, they take good care of their bus, their passengers, and see that the fare is paid. Mr. Feldra pays attention to detail and dutifully explains to passengers they have deposited a penny instead of a dime. His sharp eye sight,

continued on page 11...

TOP OPERATORS

for February



The awards for the Operator Recognition Program for the month of February 1989 were announced in March. The presentations included the Manager's Award given to full-time operators.

The program has as its purpose to recognize and reward the many bus operators who consistently perform in an outstanding manner. The theme of the program is "In Pursuit of Excellence." Those operators succeeding in their pursuit

are listed below.

Manager's Award

3201	Teddy L. Sanders
3203	Jerome J. Smith
3205	Carl L. Winston
3206	Samson Gessesse
3207	Wayne L. Anderson
3208	Darrell D. Vivian
3209	Dawud Q. Karriem
3210	Hilton Lavalas
3212	Hector M. Moreno
3215	Sebastien Amoroso
3216	Joseph R. Roque
3218	Juan G. Hernandez

...continued from page 10

his consideration for senior citizens, and waiting for the slow ones has earned my vote for him.

The City of Los Angeles should be proud as I am in having such an extraordinary group of bus drivers. It generally at times makes it hard to compare the multi-talented bus drivers. The final difference was the consideration that Ms. Woods and Mr. Feldra have shown me and the time that I saved from their acts of kindness has made me feel grateful to the point that I could use some of it to sit down and type a letter describing their fine talents. How grateful I am for them. They are truly the type of bus drivers that help make the RTD the best transportation system in America.

Most Sincerely,
Joseph John Morris

Dear RTD:

To whom it may concern. Today, because of an emergency, I took a bus ride for the first time in almost 20 years. Because of all the bad publicity about the RTD, I was very apprehensive about my ride and this is the reason for this letter.

What I found was one of the most courteous drivers I've ever seen. This young lady, Stephanie Houdashelt, called out bus stops, which helped me get to my destination. She was also very helpful with the elderly riders making sure they were OK before moving the bus.

The thing that impressed me the most was her saying things like "Hello!" "Have a good day" and "Thank you." Please thank her for a nice ride.

Sincerely,
Mr. Nicholas Cristiaan

Survey Shows Strong Support for Public Transit

by Rick Jager, Communications Representative

Well over half of nearly 1,700 people surveyed believe more funding should be directed toward improving RTD bus service and building rail service rather than building more highways and freeways in Los Angeles, announced General Manager Alan Pegg.

A recently completed marketing research survey, presented to the Board of Directors on April 6, showed employers strongly support public transit, believing businesses will ultimately benefit.

The study, conducted by Evaluation and Training Institute of Los Angeles, surveyed 108 small, medium, and large companies in the greater Los Angeles area.

The purpose of the study was to acquire information assessing the impact of new ridesharing regulations, the demand for new services, and the

perception of business executives and their employees on the use of public transportation as a viable rideshare solution.

Most employers surveyed were encouraged by the expectations of both the Metro Rail and light rail project currently under construction in Los Angeles.

In addition, the survey found that employers were concerned that more public transit be provided in the rush hours, particularly during the early morning, and that express bus service should be added.

The methodology used for the survey included face-to-face and telephone interviews with senior executives, as well as written questionnaires with commuting employees.

Companies selected to participate in the survey represented geographical areas with high and low levels of RTD service.

Double-Deckers on the Street

The number of double-decker buses in service doubled from 4 to 9 in April.

The District will add five new coaches to the four already traveling the Montclair to Mid-Wilshire express, line 497, which covers about 40 miles, one way. Double-deckers feature extra-padded, high-backed chairs and the District hopes to attract more commuters out of their cars with these comforts.

In 1987, all 17 of the double-deckers were pulled out of service following an electrical fire. The electrical flaw was redesigned, but other repairs are still needed on the eight remaining buses.

Line 497 was chosen because it has the highest ridership of any of the District's long-distance lines. It carries about 1,300 passengers daily.

Hitting the Half Way Point on Mid-Life Program



CMF's Midlife Project Team.

Hackley Chosen Operator of the Month



*Operator of the Month
Hilton H. Hackley.*

Division 5 Operator Hilton H. Hackley was selected as the RTD Operator of the Month for February.

With the District for more than seven years, "Hackley has never had an avoidable accident, and unexcused absence, nor missed a driving assignment in his years with the

District," said Assistant General Manager for Operations Art Leahy.

Although Hackley currently is an operator on Line 111 where he has early morning assignments, his favorite line is 204 because it is fast paced which keeps him busier.

A video enthusiast, Hackley has recently worked on "Strive for Success" presentations at local high schools, a campaign which helps send a "don't give up" message to students. He is also involved in various aspects of the filming process, including camera work and editing.

Hackley resides with his family in West Los Angeles.

The Equipment Maintenance Department embarked on the RTS Midlife Project late last year to refurbish RTSs in order to guarantee the model's 12-year life and increase reliability. Recently they made their half-way point on the way to their goal.

The production rate for this project is 100 coaches during FY 1989, starting with .25 per week and building to 4.0 per week by the end of the year. By April 4, the department had finished their 50th bus.

The scope of work being done requires 681 service hours per coach, and includes: rebuilding of suspension and axles, steering and brakes, wheelchair lift and doors, rear floor and supports, body/window/seats, air conditioning, operator's compartment, the power plant, and repainting.

The District purchased 940 1981 model RTS-II type buses designed for inner-city service. These buses have been the backbone of daily service for the last 7 years.

This work is being accomplished by a group of more than 60 men and women who are listed below.

Kathleen N. Caffey, Augusto R. Carrillo, John McBryan, Kenneth Miller, Dave Lane, Billy Rose, Cindy Victoria, John Lyle, Roger Potter, Jon Thomas, George Asato, Carlos Fernandez, Rudy Melendez, Abe Barron, Frank Kemp, Essie Washington, Don Pillow, Edgar Glenn, John Kielb, Roy Nobu Kawahara,

John Edrich, Rudy Lopez, Louis Knutson, Salvador Perez, Wayne Guidinger, Michael Lau, Michael Munger, Don Caswell, Mark Hamasaki, Michael G. Bennett, Gilbert Pitts, Louis Supall, Charles Judson, Rick Mason, Brian Takamiyashiro, Charles Holdren, Julio Molina, Jose Torres, Gary Bowman, Daljit Bawa, Katsuya Nakatani, James Didier, Jose Saucedo, Isabel Sotomayor, Lupe Ibarra, Thanh Phung, Thi Nguyen, Dane Sheldon, Paul Max-

*The scope of
work being done
requires 681
service hours
per coach...*

imo, Connie Diaz, Emmitt McGee, Billy Griffith, Sam Yi, Bruce Mayes, Daniel Urquidi, Jr., Daniel M. Ramirez, Michael K. Williams, Francisco Gaytan, Thomas B. Figueroa, Hermilio R. Madera, John L. Ramos, Dana Mori, Robert Johnson, Ronald Davis, Ernie Ramos, Samuel Saucedo, Joel A. Canales, Gaston Lopez, Frank Cruz, Alfred Soto, Michael Francone, Sergio Rivera, Fumio Nakasone, Dae Ho Kim, David Lee, Michael Nowlin, William N. Gonzales, Sherman Atchison, Darrel Portis, William Jones, Robert C. McCain, Jose Figueroa, Carl Henderson, and Marvin Barnes.

Lasers Blaze Trail for Metro Rail

by Greg Davy, Communications Representative

It wasn't long ago that diggers of tunnels used string lines to stay on course. Digging underground in a straight line always has been a particular problem. It confronted the builders of the Egyptian pyramids and California gold miners as well as Metro Rail engineers.

String lines used to be carefully hung within the tunnel to keep the project on course. No longer. They have given way to laser beams, ultra-modern tiny streams of red light that save engineers and construction workers worry, hassle, and dollars.

"The string used to work best in a dark tunnel when there were lights shined on it," said Steve Navin, resident engineer for RTD's Fifth and Hill

tunneling project, one of several within the District's 4.4-mile subway project due to open in 1993.

By anchoring the string from surveyed locations in the crown of the tunnel and taking measurements every few feet, tunnelers stayed on course. There were inconveniences, Navin noted. Workers sometimes tripped over the string or knocked it down. Sometimes it became entangled in machinery. Frequent measurements were time consuming.

Those days are over, at least for the RTD, an agency that is building a subway system with "no strings attached."

A nondescript little black box can be seen suspended from the top of the mammoth underground tunnel behind the digging

machine. It projects a pencil-thin red laser beam onto a small crossword puzzle-like grid attached to the digging machine 30 feet ahead.

Construction workers stationed in front of the "target" constantly monitor the beam to make sure the spot is directed where it's supposed to be.

To make the tunnel curve, as the RTD twin tunnels must do in several places along the alignment, workers simply move a measured amount from the beam, depending upon the sharpness of the turn.

"It's so much more convenient now," Navin said. "The only thing a tunneler has to remember while using the laser control is that steering the tunneling machine is sort of like

steering a big boat. You steer the back of it, not the front."

Mistakes can be costly and cause accidents. Laser technology has practically eliminated the chance of both.

"Using the laser means you can take a measurement as often as you want," Navin said. "If an error is detected, it's a simple matter to correct it before the digging machine gets off line."

String lines

used to be

carefully hung

within the tunnel

to keep the

project on course—

No longer.

Blood Drive Succeeds



OMB's Dick Christie does his part to save lives.

The March 10 Blood Drive held at District Headquarters was a successful effort. Employees exceeded the goal of 50 pints by nine percent. Fifty-seven pints were donated to the American Red Cross to be used to save lives. Marlene Allen from Risk Management takes special recognition for having made her fortieth donation in March.

"It's a deceptively simple system, yet it saves so much time and manpower," said RTD Metro Rail Director of Construction Management Sam Louis.

"Lasers can be used in so many other ways besides just tunneling. They are useful for making sure major elements of a project are on target, for guiding and aligning all facets of construction," Louis said. "We are using them above ground as well as below."

Subway Is Earthquake Proof

RTD Metro construction experts are amused by tales of collapsing subway stations and tunnels during a big earthquake. While such a scenario can make a great scene in a disaster film, there is virtually no chance of it happening in real life, says Assistant General Manager for Transit Systems Development Bill Rhine.

Science fiction writers and Hollywood, principally Universal Studios, owe a lot to earthquakes. Among nature's most spectacular events, they have long been the inspiration for heart-thumping disaster films, fanciful "what-if" stories, and various man-made amusement rides.

Earthquakes have contributed significantly to California lore. And as a study of any local lore will tell you, stories tend to get a bit exaggerated over the years. The fact is, if a major quake occurred, a Metro Rail subway station would be one of the safest places in Los Angeles to be, says Rhine.

"Our stations and tunnels will have many earthquake safety features that will protect our riders. The chances of being injured while underground are much smaller than if you were in a building or walking on the street," Rhine said.

He explained that, unlike above-ground structures, Metro Rail tunnels and stations would

move along with the ground during a quake. Damage to buildings occurs mostly because of the "whiplash" effect, which would not take place underground.

A 1983 study of the area's fault lines showed 12 known faults crisscrossing the county. Where Metro Rail meets a fault, the sectional construction of the tunnels would allow for a shear movement to occur with little or no damage. Tracks will be equipped with sensors that will automatically shut down the system if a magnitude five quake or larger occurs.

Safety features will protect our riders.

"Experiences in other cities with subways built in earthquake areas have taught us much about subway safety," Rhine said. "The eight-point earthquakes in Mexico City in 1985 caused major damage to buildings, but the subway system suffered virtually none. The same was true of Tokyo's system during some of its quakes."

Crashing walls and beams, falling vehicles and flying sparks are fine for movies and books. But Metro Rail riders will be able to sit back and enjoy the ride beneath downtown Los Angeles, knowing that special effects are confined to the big screen.

SCHEDULE CHANGES



Atienza, Wilfredo N., from Auditor to Senior Auditor.

Barron, Tony from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Bethel, Maceo M., from Assistant Division Transportation Manager to Division Transportation Manager.

Callahan, Richard G., from Bus Operator Full-time to Bus Operator/Extra Schedule Checker.

Carmona, Victor G., from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

Creveling, Douglas T., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Cupp, Diana L., from Utility B to Utility A.

Davidsohn, Richard, from Information Clerk to Ticket/Information Clerk.

Darensbourg, Eileen, from Secretary to Senior Secretary.

Davis, Winnifred, L., from Senior Secretary to Office Supervisor.

Delacruz, Robert, from Ticket Clerk to Prepaid Sales Aide.

Din, Tat, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Duffy, Fred E., from Cabinet Maker Leader to Mechanic A Leader.

Earnest, Amelia, from Buyer to Contract Administrator.

Fielding, Berkeley A., from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

Figueros, Ernesto, from

Service Attendant to Laborer A.

Fleming, Carl W., from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Frizelle, Evelyn M., from Assistant Division Transportation Manager to Division Transportation Manager.

Grabowski, Joseph L., from Buyer to Equipment Engineering Technician.

Griffith, Billy M., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Harrell, Deborah A., from Auditor to Senior Auditor.

Holland, Frank R., from Stock Clerk to Materiel Control Clerk.

Johnson, Christina, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.

Kirstenpfad, Gunter A., from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Lensch, Martin G., from Assistant Division Transportation Manager to Division Transportation Manager.

Lowe, William C., from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.

Luu, Wayne, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Miller-Disdier, Jane A., from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

Navarro, Linda D., from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

continued on page 15...

...continued from page 14

Ngo, En T., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.
Nijland, Renske A., from Senior Engineer to Project Engineer.
Peterson, Maurice E., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.
Pitford, Harry A., from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.
Ramirez, Ricardo G., from Bus Operator/Extra Schedule Checker to Schedule Checker.
Sells, Regina L., from Staff Assistant to Administrative Analyst.
Shaw, George I., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.
Staves, Bobby L., from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.
Thulin, Deborah L., from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.
Torres, Jorge C., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.
Tyiska, Marlana D., from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.
Villagran, Charles, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.
Villanueva, Eliseo A., from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.
Williams, Cherri Y., from Staff Assistant to Office Supervisor.
Williams, Tommye J., from Senior Equal Opportunity Representative to Contract Administrator.
Yu, Wei Hsiu-Yung, from Programmer to Programmer Analyst.
Zapata, Gary L., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

SHIFTING GEARS



Alexander, J.B., began with the District on April 4, 1976, retired as a Bus Operator on February 28, 1989.

Burgess, James P., began with the District on July 10, 1978, retired as Transit Police Chief on February 14, 1989.

Campbell, Houston J., began with the District on February 23, 1959, retired as a Transit Operations Supervisor on February 7, 1989.

Cockburn, John H., began with the District on February 8, 1960, retired as a Bus Operator on January 31, 1989.

Dunigan, Fannie M., began with the District on February 17, 1975, retired as a Utility A on February 18, 1989.

Gilliam, Robert E., began with the District on July 15, 1974, retired as a Bus Operator on January 17, 1989.

Jackson, Willie J., began with the District on January 12, 1961, retired as a Plumber Leader on January 24, 1989.

Johnson, Joseph H., began with the District on December 4, 1965, retired as a Bus Operator on February 24, 1989.

Lackey, Cecil E., began with the District on February 6, 1975, retired as a Mechanic A on March 1, 1989.

McCauley, Ronald H., began with the District on June 12, 1978, retired as a Mechanic A on February 8, 1989.

Nix, Harvey, began with the District on October 31, 1964, retired as a Bus Operator on January 23, 1989.

Pope, Thomas R., began with the District on February 21, 1979, retired as a Bus Operator on February 23, 1989.

Prizzi, Cataldo F., began with the District on December 4, 1978, retired as a Mechanic A on February 4, 1989.

Shelton, Clinton, began with the District on October 28, 1958, retired as a Cash Clerk/Assistant Central Cash Counting Supervisor on March 18, 1989.

Thomas, Raymond V., began with the District on February 5, 1959, retired as a Transit Police Sergeant on February 26, 1989.

Vagenas, John, began with the District on September 4, 1971, retired as a Bus Operator on February 28, 1989.

IN MEMORIAM

Davis, Jesse R., began with the District on March 31, 1972, passed away on March 8, 1989.

Fox, Edmond J., began with the District on May 11, 1957, passed away on January 16, 1989.

Kotoulas, George T., began with the District on February 19, 1970, passed away on February 20, 1989.

Mulay, James C., began with the District on July 12, 1976, passed away on February 20, 1989.

Ramsburg, Charles A., began with the District December 5, 1924, passed away on February 2, 1989.

Ravens, Charles A., began with the District on January 24, 1947, passed away on February 2, 1989.

Scott, Bonnie, began with the District December 26, 1974, passed away on January 4, 1989.

Shettles, Therman C., began with the District on October 18, 1955, passed away January 3, 1989.

Taylor, Frank A., began with the District on April 7, 1922, passed away on October 15, 1988.



LA Kings Promote Transit

Los Angeles Kings hockey players Wayne Gretzky, high scorer Bernie Nicholis, and captain Dave Taylor have joined forces with RTD to encourage Los Angeles sports fans to use public transportation to get to games.

Beginning February 17, outdoor billboards and bus advertisements featured the three Kings players along with three RTD operators whose message is "We Deliver." The signs now appear

on more than 200 bus ads and billboards throughout the Los Angeles area.

"RTD serves all of the major sports venues in Los Angeles—the Great Western Forum, the Sports Arena, the Rose Bowl, and the Memorial Coliseum," said General Manager Alan Pegg. "Taking the bus is an excellent way to support your favorite team while avoiding traffic jams and costly parking charges."

Apparently, Division 9 Operator Jose Berumen took the "We Deliver" slogan of the District's promotional campaign more literally than other employees. On April 5, while driving the 487 line on the busway, Berumen became aware that one of his female patrons had gone into labor. He radioed the Dispatch Center and Dispatcher George Laun advised him to meet an ambulance that would be sent to the nearest location. Berumen's mother-to-be, however, went into heavy labor and there was no time to waste. Laun then directed Berumen to exit the busway and proceed to the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. Berumen drove to the entrance of the Women's Hospital, helped his patron off, and got right back on his run. Sort of adds a whole new meaning to "We Deliver."

Non-Contract Employees Get 6 1/2% Raise

The Board of Directors approved a six and one-half percent across-the-board raise for all non-contract employees at the April 17 Board of Directors' Meeting, which became effective May 5.

The salary adjustment was recommended by staff as fundamental to the District's objective to hire and retain a highly qualified and well-motivated work force. A recently completed comparative study shows that District salaries, over the last five years, have

lagged significantly behind major private and public agency competitors.

Since 1983 the average District increases totaled 29.19 percent as against other local agencies whose cumulative total comes out to 43.67 percent. The average non-contract raises over the last six years have resulted in a lag of at least 14.5 percent. The non-contract turnover rate average in 1980 was 6.5 percent, and 8 and 8.5 percent in 1985 and 1986, but rose significantly to 19 percent this year.

Fare Box Fixer

Division 8 Operator John Faust, like most operators looked forward to the installation of the electronic fare box. Like others he thought the state-of-the-art equipment would make his job easier. But, soon after installation, the boxes became jammed and refused to take riders' dollar bills. It was this predicament that started Faust's genius working.

As the bills jam, the jamming affects the bills just like a photocopying machine affects stuck paper, the bills come out looking like an accordion. The machine also tends to have an appetite for long manicured fingernails.

As the dollars began to pile up, Faust asked riders to deposit coins. If they didn't have the correct change, more than likely they rode for free. "Maintenance was receiving about an average of 200 calls a day about these machines," said Faust. As a result of the problem, Faust said he and other operators were guilty of committing the No. 1 sin at the District—"touching money."

In order to sin no more, Faust used his ingenuity and developed a simple device that helped along the insertion of the bills. "People tend to lay the bill flat on the plate provided. Because of the manufacturer's oversight the angle was not appropriate. My device helps the dollars go in easier. It forces riders to angle the bill down into the fare box," said Faust. Faust's device looks as



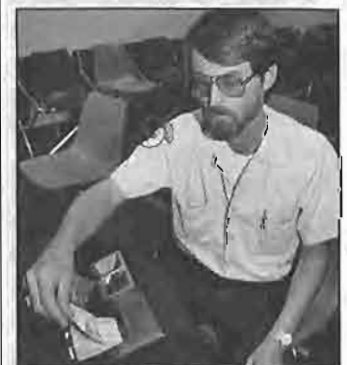
Division 8 Operator John Faust shows his "magic wedge" which helps the electronic fare box better accept dollar bills.

unassuming as a simple doorstep, but it works.

With his friend, Les Conaway, Faust took a solid wood wedge cut at a 26-degree angle, taped part of a transfer pad to the bottom, and fastened a plastic stop at the wedge's end. He anchored the device to the fare box by running a #10 wire around it.

"My friend and I looked at the fare box and came up with a concept to force riders to raise the bill when inserting. I think every operator who used the fare

continued on page 19...



Faust shows how the angle of the wedge forces a rider to raise the bill for a higher angle of insertion.

COMMENDATIONS



RTD Retirees were recognized at the March 9 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented with plaques by RTD Director Kenneth Thomas. Front row, from left to right: Division 3 Operator John W. Bailey, Division 9 Operator Silverio Hernandez, Division 15 Operator Austin P. Miller, Division 5 Operator Harry A. Payne, and TOS Gilbert J. Weaver. Back row, from left to right: General Manager Alan Pegg, Director Thomas, and Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey.



RTD Retirees were recognized at the March 9 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented with plaques by RTD Director Kenneth Thomas. Front row, from left to right: Division 5 Utility Murlin C. Aykes, Division 1 Mechanic A Efrain Ybarra, and Assistant Cash Counting Supervisor Clinton Shelton. Back row, from left to right: General Manager Alan Pegg, Acting Controller-Treasurer Michael Butler, and Director Thomas.



Certificates of Merit were presented to the January Employees of the Month at the February 23 Board of Directors' Meeting by RTD Director Charles Storing. Front row, from left to right: Division 7 Transportation Manager Ron Reedy; Employees of the Month: Division 7 Operator Orlando Medrano, Information Operator Steven Gaines, and Division 10 Mechanic A Jose Bermejo. Back row, from left to right: Director Storing, Board President Gordana Swanson, General Manager Alan Pegg, Division 10 Maintenance Manager Michael Stange, and Director of Customer Relations Robert Williams.



Certificates of Merit were presented to the February Employees of the Month at the March 23 Board of Directors' Meeting by RTD Director Charles Storing. Those employees included, front row, from left to right: Division 5 Mechanic A Gustavo Sabala, Information Operator Wanda Sewell, and Division 5 Operator Hilton Hackley. Acting Division 5 Transportation Manager Karl Mueller stands at the far right. Back row, from left to right: Director Storing, Board President Gordana Swanson, General Manager Alan Pegg, Director of Customer Relations Robert Williams, and Division 5 Maintenance Manager Luchus Smith.

continued on page 18...

...Commendations

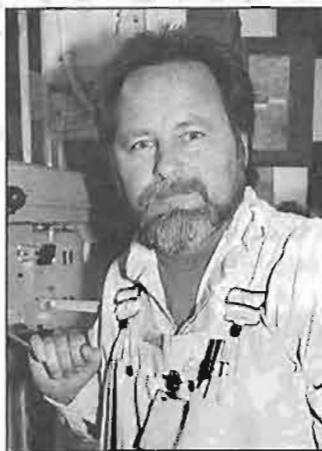
...continued from page 17



Photomachine Operator Cruz Ortega was chosen the Printing Department's Employee of the Quarter for Winter 1989. Cruz is considered by his supervisors to be a high performance employee. He is extremely dependable and produces high quality work. He has long been described as one of his department's best bindery machine operators. Cruz has been part of the District team since 1973.



The Maintenance and Transportation Divisions with the best safety records for the fourth quarter of 1988 were honored at the February 23 Board of Directors' Meeting. Those managers recognized included Division 16 Maintenance Manager Ted Desy and Division 6 Transportation Manager Jim Lukens. Front row, from left to right: Assistant Director of Equipment Maintenance Tony Chavira, Ted Desy, Jim Lukens, Manager of Occupational Health and Safety Robert Torres, and Safety Engineer Rufus Francis. Back row, from left to right: Assistant Director of Transportation Ralph Wilson, Board President Gordana Swanson, General Manager Alan Pegg, and Safety Specialist Frank Larson.



Property Maintainer A John Markles was chosen the Facilities Maintenance Employee of the Month for February. Markles has been assigned as the Bus Service Equipment Bench Repairman. He repairs and retrofits many different types of pumps, cylinders, gear boxes, and components for the District's bus service equipment. His work allows the field repairpeople to repair the District's lube systems, bus washers, vacuums, fuel stations, and all other support equipment. His generous attitude and willingness to share knowledge have contributed greatly to training other mechanics. Markles has been a dedicated employee for 18 years.



Los Angeles City Councilman Nate Holden received a plaque of appreciation at the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Scholarship and Awards Luncheon held March 4 at the Amfac Hotel. Holden was the keynote speaker for the event and was presented the plaque by COMTO LA-Chapter President Cherri Williams; Assistant General Manager, Equal Opportunity Walter Norwood was seated to the left of Holden. The purpose of COMTO is to promote better conditions and circumstance by which representatives of all minority groups may achieve meaningful representation in the field of public transportation. COMTO carries out its program nationally and locally through scholarship programs, networking, training, and minority enterprise (MBE) opportunity programs.



RTD Director John F. Day was presented a pictorial remembrance of his tenure on the RTD Board of Directors from Senior Planner Terry Moren. Director Day retired from the Board in early April following a decision not to run for reelection to the Glendale City Council. His councilmanic position made him eligible for the seat on the RTD Board of Directors. A champion for the cause of accessible service, Day promises to keep up the good fight.



Photo by George Gray Photography

The Marketing Department's Fresh Savings / Anti-Graffiti promotions take the Clean Team message to young people at malls throughout Southern California. At the Glendale Galleria, Marketing and Communications Representative Sherrie Fernando introduces the young performers who donate their time to RTD's Anti-Graffiti program—from left to right: Singer Alitzah Weiner of the television program, "My Two Dads," Katrina Abrams, and Celeste of the singing group Lipstick, and Lipstick Manager Elisabeth Howard.

RTD Joins Madrina/ Padrino Program

Several RTD employees enlisted by the Humphreys Avenue School in East Los Angeles act as Madrinas (godmothers) and Padrinos (godfathers) to fourth and fifth graders participating in the program.

The program is the brainchild of teacher Ms. Mayra Fernandez who implemented it in Septem-

ber 1988. Through her research Ms. Fernandez realized that successful Hispanics had had successful mentors or role models in their formative years. "Because I want my students to be successful, I want them to meet successful Hispanics while my students are still impressionable," said Ms. Fernandez. The participating RTD employees include Board Director Larry Gonzalez, Inspector General Ernie Fuentes, Transit Police Chief Ernie Munoz, Director of Community Relations Manny Hernandez, Personnel Analyst Mario Perez, and *Headway* Editor Mary Reyna.

RTD employees and other community-minded Hispanics interact with the fourth and fifth graders who are Spanish-speaking students. Over half of the students are newly arrived in the United States and are in the early stages of English proficiency.

Each padrino or madrina corresponds with his or her godchild and each child writes faithfully to his or her respective godparent. Every six months, the children present a "cafe literario," a replica of a literary event or experience common in the Hispanic world in which poets, philosophers, and artists get together to discuss new ideas. "My students share with their parents and their godparents all the new ideas they have been learning."

continued on page 20...

...Fare Box Fixer

...continued from page 17

box knew if you raised the bill it would go in."

Faust designed the template and took it to his friend Les who made it. The stop on the end is actually a dowel-holding bracket. "We improvised, going on the theory that there is always a better mousetrap."

The inventor showed the device to Division Manager Bill Griffin and tested it on an instruction fare box. "Mr. Griffin saw it work and encouraged my 'product analysis.'"

Faust, who has been with the District for 14 years, believes the problem with the fare box is just a textbook case of the manufacturer not testing actual usage on the streets.

Equipment Maintenance is in the process of evaluating the design as a possible amendment to the fare box. "I'll be tickled pink if they put it on. It should be easier for the mechanics because they work with parts all day. I think it will make everybody's life a little easier."

...Madrino/Padrino Project

...continued from page 20

Godparents are also asked to address Ms. Fernandez' class and talk about their careers and how they attained them. Ms. Fernandez says the godparents come with the positive messages that tell the kids to study, work hard, and stay in school. "This is an especially critical message when the Hispanic drop-out rate nationally is over 50 percent. It is the highest of any minority group," she said.

Ms. Fernandez conceived of the idea partly from her own experience. "When I was a child growing up in Spanish Harlem I really had no successful role models. Then, there was Jackie Robinson. He became my role model. He was a man of color who had made it out of the barrio and realized his dream. I knew if he could do it, I could." Ms. Fernandez, when she is not busy teaching at Humphreys Avenue School, is at work completing her doctoral dissertation on multi-cultural education.

"I am very appreciative of how responsive the people at the RTD have been. Their message has been to take

responsibility for communal property like RTD buses. I think that's important to my students so that they feel they are part of the community. And, as a part of the community they will feel that they must give something back to that community. I thank the Marketing Department, Community Relations, and Employee Activities for the bags, maps, rulers, and other articles given to my class. I've used the materials in my teaching."

She added that adults underestimate the impact they have on children's lives. "As an example, your Inspector General Ernie Fuentes has a godchild who was such a problem child he was not allowed to play on the playground. Because Mr. Fuentes took a special interest in him his whole demeanor has changed. He is now allowed to play on the playground...it made a difference in his life."

For those who may be interested in participating in this worthwhile program, you are encouraged to call Mayra Fernandez at Humphreys Avenue School, (213) 263-6958.



Ms. Fernandez' fourth and fifth graders have adopted some RTD employees as their "Madrinas" and "Padrinos."

Our Own Movie Maker

Donald A. Barnes, video director with the Instruction Department, recently completed a 17-minute video entitled "Bus Operator Courtesy." The film includes many RTD employees as its cast and was shot in various locations around Los Angeles.

The film has the quality of some larger budget

designed to teach operators how to work with disabled passengers. "I enjoy what I am doing," said Barnes. "I can give the District the quality it needs for training videos, but I do need more up-to-date equipment." With newer equipment, Barnes believes the District could rival the production of the Tri-Met Transportation



Donald Barnes directs Instructor Les Vance in a bus over line video.

movies and includes some animation techniques incorporated by Barnes. It is also greatly entertaining, especially if you know any of its cast of 22 employees.

Barnes, our in-house director, first started working for the District as an operator and remained for 11 years. All the time he was driving he also worked as a film projectionist. So, when a break came to work for MGM, Barnes took it. For the next decade he worked for such studios as Lorimar and Warner. Barnes received training from the Soundmasters Video Recording School and is a graduate from the UCLA School of Cinematography.

His next project includes a training film

District of Oregon. In February alone Tri-Met released six films, ranging from three to 12 minutes, to all division managers. These films covered such topics as bus over lines, gangs, reading gang graffiti, maximizing commuter resources, overview of Tri-Met's mission, Tri-Met light rail, and a feature on a special operator.



In his studio, Barnes aims to create District movies.

FLO-JO COMES BACK TO DIVISION 6

Three-time Olympic gold-medalist (and two silver) Florence Griffith-Joyner and her husband, Al Joyner, made a return trip on March 28 to Division 6, home of Flo-Jo's brother, Weldon Pitts. Division Manager Mike Lensch and dozens of Transportation and Maintenance personnel greeted the couple.

Last August, a few weeks before her dazzling triumphs in Seoul at the 1988 Olympic Games, Florence came to visit the division for the first time. At the games she won the gold for the 100 meters, 200 meters, and the 400-meter relay team.

Weldon, her proud brother, says he is her No. 1 fan. The second oldest in a family of 11 children, Weldon was charged with the responsibility of taking care of all of them, including Flo-Jo. It was evident from Flo-Jo's willingness to sign hundreds of autographs and take dozens of pictures with division employees that there is a lot of love between the brother and sister and no balking at requests. Flo-Jo and her husband Al were happy to comply with all requests.



Flo-Jo's brother Weldon Pitts directs her attention to the employees who wanted photos with the gold-medal Olympian at Division 6 on March 28.



Forming the welcoming committee for Flo-Jo and Al Joyner were her brother, Weldon Pitts, far left, and Division Manager Mike Lensch, far right.

Flo-Jo said she got ready for the competition in Korea by preparing mentally and praying every day. She acknowledges the fact that she is a Christian, and that she prayed with gratitude following each race.

Since she recently retired from track and field, she was kept busy coaching

her husband, Al, who was preparing for the 110-meter high hurdles at the International Competition held this past May in Tokyo. Additionally, she continues to write children's novels, poetry, and is preparing a book on athletics for children. She is also pursuing a career in acting. One such project includes a movie role as the

female .007 with Eddie Murphy; others include TV stories for children and cartoons. Through it all she still works at keeping herself in shape.

Encouraging children to follow their dreams plays an important role in Flo-Jo's life. She says everyday she receives dozens of letters from children. "I always tell them to follow a dream, hold on to it. Don't let anyone take it away from you. Don't let them tell you that you can't achieve it no matter how long it takes. Lots of kids want to be like me. I tell them to set their goals higher than mine and to go for their own dreams." As to starting her own family, Flo-Jo said, maybe in a couple more years. Al and Flo-Jo now make their home in Newport Beach.

Out in the yard of the division when asked how she felt about the RTD, Flo-Jo said it holds a positive image in her mind. "I've been around it for a long time and it has taken me to lots of places. So many people in this city rely on it. It provided my family with transportation when we didn't have a car."

The '89 Style Mother—How She Copes

When Mother's Day—May 14th this year—rolls around, nearly all of us show our appreciation to our mothers and the mothers of our children. We may even stop to wonder what life will be like when our own daughters or granddaughters become mothers someday.

Yes, the role of mothers has changed dramatically in a few short generations. How do mothers cope with all the stress of managing families and often a career as well? Here's what some mothers do to maintain their perspective.

FIND JOY IN THE LITTLE PLEASURES. Who else but a mother can be rejuvenated by a scraggly piece of paper that says, between the smudges, "I luv

How refreshing

it is to see

your youngest

come in, cheeks ablaze,

from playing

outside.

yu, Mom" or a dandelion offered by a grubby little hand? How refreshing it is to see your youngest come in, cheeks ablaze, from playing outside. There's no pride like that at a child's recital, when you watch



"As a child, my mother told me that when a person becomes a mother, that person gets two more arms and eyes in the back of the head. Well, they don't—but they should."

your offspring walk across the stage and sit down confidently at the grand piano or recite her line correctly. How glad you are to see your own child tenderly cuddle his or her newborn baby. Life's tender moments are the best ones.

TAKE LONG SHOWERS OR BUBBLE BATHS. A few glorious moments to yourself can usually be found with sponge and bar of soap in hand. You can let your hair down. Sing your favorite tune. Or feel the soft prickles of the water on your tired back. A leisurely shower or a fragrant bath can restore the spirits in any season. Take two—they're good for you.

REMEMBER THAT ALL STAGES PASS. Children go through stages all their lives, and just when it seemed as though they had solved all their problems, they enter another stage. Whether it's the toss-all-the-food-on-the-floor stage, or the toss-the-bills-out-the-door stage, or the toss-all-the-clothes-on-the-floor stage, mothers know it won't last long, and that there isn't much they can do

about it except be there.

REFUSE TO DO IT ALL. Mothers are inveterate list makers. Grocery lists, household task lists, lists of things to do at work. But mothers also are wise enough to know they probably will never get to the end of the list before it's

*Mothers know
that children's
stages won't
last long.*

time to make a new one. And some mothers even have been known to put things on their lists that they've already done just so they can cross **SOMETHING** off.

APPRECIATE EACH OTHER. Only another mother can understand the headaches, heartaches, and heavenly rewards of being a mother. That's why women have enduring friendships and as they get older a growing soft place in their hearts for their own mother

Mechanic's Daughter Saves Mom

Andrea Bowman, 7, gave her mother an early Mother's Day present in March—the gift of life. On the morning of March 14, Andrea, the daughter of CMF Mechanic A Gary Bowman, found her diabetic mother, Sally, in the midst of a severe insulin reaction. The third-grader tried to give her orange juice but she couldn't get her mother to sit up. She called 911 and told the dispatchers what the problem was. The paramedics arrived to render aid to Sally Bowman. Later, the paramedics commented that had Andrea not made the emergency call and her mother not received immediate aid she would have gone into a coma.

Following the emergency, Andrea went on her way to school at the Foothill Christian School in Glendora and told her classmates what had happened. The family lives in La Verne.

and mother-in-law. We know what they went through.

If you are a mother, look in the mirror and flash yourself a gigantic smile. If you have a mother, give her a big hug, or at least take out her photo and give her a kiss. If you're married to a mother, swoop her into your arms and...**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

— by Connie Dewhurst in
Cooperative Farmer



TO YOUR HEALTH

Never Say Diet

Most people have been on a diet at some point in their lives. Some people seem to be on perpetual diets to reach an elusive ideal weight, others try to reduce for an upcoming special event where they want to look their best, either reason for going on a diet is wrong.

There is more to dieting than just losing weight.

There is more to dieting than just losing weight. There are psychological implications with never achieving the desired goal. This could lead to depression, low self-esteem, and frustration. There are also potential health risks with losing weight either too fast or too much. We could deprive our bodies of essential nutrients, reduce our metabolic rate, and lower our stamina.

Weight Management

We can achieve our desired weight goal through proper weight management. Weight management means not only controlling what you eat, but also controlling eating behavior. A simple exercise to test your weight

management skills is to write down where, why, what time, and what you eat for a whole week. This will show you where your real problem lies. By learning how to control eating attitudes, you can not only lose the weight you want, but also keep it off permanently.

Remember to exercise regularly in order to firm your body, increase your metabolic rate, and burn extra calories. Once you see how good you look and feel you will not want to stop your exercise program.

Rather than waiting until June 21 to see how you look in your bathing suit, start thinking about summer right now. Weight loss is not an occurrence, it's a process that takes time and perseverance. Try some of these tips to help you look your best this summer:

- Set and keep specific eating times.
- Do not eat anything at least 3 hours before going to sleep.
- Don't do anything (watch TV, read the paper) while you eat.
- Chew your food completely and eat slowly.
- Maintain a regular exercise program.

BIG HINT: Employee Activities is sponsoring an on-site Weight Watchers Program at District Headquarters, consider joining.

Division 18 on the Court with B Ball

by William D. Jordan

The B Ball Association of Carson extends a hearty thanks to the managers and employees of Division 18 for their participation in our Celebrity Basketball Fund Raiser held March 11.

The first game led off with the Carson Sheriff's Department vs. the Los Angeles Police Department's Olympic team. The Sheriff's won by 3 points with a score of 62 to 59.

This type of participation by our law enforcement agencies can only improve relations with the community. By communicating with the kids on their level in a friendly setting, it gave our kids a different perspective of our police officers. The kids gained a new respect for them. It helps to underscore that all police are not bad guys and not all kids are gang members.

The second game starred the celebrity guest, Loretta Chandler, of "Fame" who sung the National Anthem. The recording artists were pitched against the movie and television stars. Some of the celebrity players were: Cylk Cozart, *Dr. Feel Good*; *School Daze*; William Pugh, *Color Purple*; Kid Flash, *Matronix La Rapper*; Kennan Waynans *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka*; Curtis Baldwin, NBC's 227; Georgio, *Motown*; Jermaine Stewart, singer; Tiny Lester, *Action Jackson*; and Rodney Alan Rippey III. This game was won by the movie and TV stars.

The final game of the

evening was played by Division 18's Running Rebels vs. the B Ballers.

Just to give you a little run-down on the "B Ball" bench, it was comprised of three teams. The players ranged from juniors to seniors in high school. Many of their players were 6'7" and taller. Their objective was preparation for the Las Vegas Easter Classic held for high school students during spring break.

The lead went back and forth. The Rebels were playing kids bigger in size and 20-30 years younger. At times it seemed the Rebels might drop from sheer exhaustion.

As the game progressed, the whole crowd was rooting for Division 18. These old men had no intention of quitting or giving up! Just their effort made many emotional with tears of joy.

With two minutes left in the game, the mercury lights in the gym went out. The Rebels trailed by one point and had possession of the ball. We called the game at that point. I was so proud of my co-workers. We could not have had a better ending. Both teams won! Everyone was happy.

Thanks again to the Running Rebels out of Division 18, and to all my co-workers. When the community called on you, you were there.

I am sure that this has brought an improved

continued on page 24...

Transit Hispanics Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

The Committee of Concerned Hispanic Transit Employees held their first annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration at the USC Faculty Club on Friday, May 5.

The evening offered music, dancing, antojitos, door prizes, and the camaraderie of Hispanic co-workers at the RTD. Tickets sold for \$10 a person.

The Committee of Concerned Hispanic Transit Employees is a new organization formed to offer Hispanics at the RTD support and social-cultural involvement. If you are interested in joining call 972-4905.

...B Ball

...continued from page 23

relationship between RTD, its drivers, and all the kids we carry on the bus each day.

From a job well done, Division 18, you got a lot of respect from the kids and parents of B Ball. The crowd didn't cheer for you as they did without some appreciation for the effort that you made, and the fact that they realize we do care about our community and we are not the bad guys.

We are all that we have, thanks for your support and help.

Asian Pacific Group Mobilizes

The Asian Pacific Employees Association held their first luncheon meeting on March 31 at the Design Center Restaurant.

Emilio Estepa, the organization's president, commenced the meeting and told the 30 employees gathered that in the next several months more luncheon meetings will be held with RTD executive staff members. Estepa outlined the activities planned for members which include a family picnic on July 22 at Bonelli Park in San Dimas, publishing a quarterly newsletter, enlisting volunteer panels or groups to help the RTD in their anti-graffiti campaign,



The SCRTD Asian Pacific Employees Association held their organizational luncheon meeting March 31.

say no-to-drugs, and other community oriented programs. Additionally, the group will sponsor a search for the ten most outstand-

ing Asian Pacifics of Southern California to be featured in a cultural event to be held later in the year; and to initiate the development of an Asian-Pacific Directory in the Pacific Rim area.

Director of Metro Rail Construction Management Sam Louis briefed the group on the up-to-date progress of the rail projects. He encouraged members to become fully informed about the project so they may talk to

Asian-Pacifics comprise almost one-third of the RTD population.

the public and take some pride in what RTD is doing in this area.

Lieu Pham from Metro Rail addressed the members, first thanking them for coming. "Asian Pacifics comprise almost one-third of the RTD population. We felt it was time to combine

continued on page 25...

RTD Chinese Employees Ring in the New Year



Several RTD Chinese-American employees celebrated the Chinese New Year at the District with a pot-luck luncheon laden with traditional dishes for the celebration. Pausing for a photo after ushering in the

year of the snake, were front row, from the left Miranda Lee, Susie Yu, Gloria Shen, Lynn Ong, Cal Louie, and Jack Wang. In the rear, are from left to right: Chanshie Chu and Robert Wu.

For Sale

Duplex For Rent
1 bedroom, 1 bath, a garage and a small backyard. Located in the Los Feliz/Seneca Ave. area. Ideal for a couple ready for occupancy. \$580 a month. Call Carmelita at 972-4302, home, (714) 598-8245.

...continued from page 24

efforts and take a step as an organization. We need everyone to lend a hand so we can be productive to our association and to the RTD," he said. Pham will serve as acting president of the organization till May 19 in the absence of Emilio Estepa.

Joe Vicente, the president of the Filipino Association said that since the Asian population is becoming such a big part of Los Angeles County, the Asians at the RTD are in a unique position to assist with big problems affecting the county—transportation and air pollution. "Each one of us can contribute to transportation's effort and its success," he said. He encouraged members to participate in the RTD graffiti program.

The SCRTPD Asian Pacific Employees Association is comprised of members who are Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian, Hawaiian, and Samoan.

The next luncheon meeting will be held June 5. For more information please contact Emilio Estepa at extension 7924 or Carmelita Romero at extension 4302.

How We Spent Our Vacation

Assistant General Manager for Planning and Communications Albert Perdon recently took his wife, Belen, and son, Albert, for a 5-day, 110-mile bicycle ride down the coast.

The Perdon family passed through Zuma Beach, Malibu, through Santa Monica, and rode into Marina Del Rey. "That was the toughest leg of the journey. I was sore after that, ... could barely sit down," said Perdon. From the Marina they completed the trip in Redondo Beach. "It's a very exciting adventure. I think people should be able to make this trip with their families, however, there are parts of the ride that contain real elements of danger," he said. Some segments of the journey require riding on

From Oxnard the

the freeway where there is only a bare six inches of shoulder on which to ride.

"I think people should be able to make this trip with their families..."

Every time a truck passed by, Perdon said he thought about introducing some legislation in Sacramento for completing the bike path.

"This is the first time we've ever done anything like this. I think we will probably do it again. You see things riding that you don't see driving by at 55 miles per hour. For instance, near the Leo Carrillo Beach we saw whales off the coast and were able to enjoy the freshly bloomed spring flowers."

elephant battled it out with an TMC-model bus and won. Put on as a promotional stunt to attract customers, RTD offered discount coupons to Circus Vargas, good for \$2 off regular ticket prizes.

Tug-of-War between Machine and Beast

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, RTD challenged a Circus Vargas elephant, dressed in green, to a tug-of-war on March 17 in Santa Monica.

Cheered on by Circus Vargas clowns and show girls, the green-clad



Beast beats RTD bus in tug-of-war contest.

Thank You Note

Mrs. Faynell Small, surviving wife of Division 5 Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Oliver Small, Jr., wishes to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the kind expression of sympathy from District employees at the death of her husband. Small was employed with the District for 22 years.

Retirements

Schedule Checker Bernie Hilaman, 59, retired from the District on March 30, 1989, after 23-1/2 years. Hilaman came to the RTD in 1965 from the Red Arrow Lines of Philadelphia. He worked as an operator until 1980 before entering the Scheduling Department.

Assistant General Manager for Operations Art Leahy said: "This is one of the best employees this organization ever had," at a party held in Hilaman's honor on March 30. Hilaman remarked on the irony of Leahy's praise because,

*"This is
one of the best
employees..."*

"Art Leahy's father was my instructor back in the 60s and on my first day he gave me the worst chewing out I ever got."

Hilaman has made no special plans upon retirement, but he's thinking, especially since the day before his retirement he managed to get five numbers in Lotto, totaling a windfall of \$2,763.

Air Conditioning Leadman Ed Davis retired after 17 years with the District on March 30. Davis started as a Utility and quickly promoted up the ranks to Mechanic A. He spent most of his career with the District working out of Vernon Yard.

"With Ed leaving, we will have to replace him with two people," said Supervisor Taiwu Lim. He described Davis as hard-

*"...we'll have
to replace
him with
two people."*

working and diplomatic. "I've never had any complaints about Ed," he said.

Davis and his wife, who retired from Rockwell on March 30, plan to take it easy at their home in Ontario. "We're farming people and we like it out here," said Davis.

Davis looks back over his tenure with the District as some of the best years of his life. "I've had a blessed life at the District," he said.

Sign Shop Leadman Roger Mendivil retired on March 30. Mendivil worked for the RTD for 30 years at South Park.

Mendivil and his family plan to move to Arizona, outside of Kingman. "I plan to do some fishing, relaxing,... anything I feel like," said Mendivil.

The retiree was not talkative about his transition into retirement. "I plan to go out like I came in—quietly. It's been an enjoyable 30 years, but lately there have been a lot of changes. I'll be glad to get out of here."



Bernie Hilaman cuts the cake at his retirement party.



Ed Davis holds retirement scrolls he received at his retirement party at South Park.



Roger Mendivil receives a blow-up of a group shot of South Park mechanics taken in the 1950s from Neal Vredevelt.

RTD Racers Join Stream of Humanity

The following vignettes detail the courage and endurance of those employees and/or their family members who participated in this year's 4th Annual Los Angeles Marathon held on March 5.

Robert J. Dennis, Jr., the son of Division 8 Operator Robert J. Dennis, ran in the Sunday marathon and came in 287 out of over 10,000 runners.

Division 12 Operator David Martinez ran in the marathon for his 5-year-old nephew, Anthony Duke Avila, who was diagnosed with leukemia this past Christmas.

Retirees Marion and

Nathaniel Walker participated in the 5K walk at UCLA promoted by Secure Horizons. The walk was held the same day as the marathon. The Walkers reported a time of 43.25 minutes.

Division 18 Operator Geronimo Young ran the race in 5 hours and 23 minutes. "It was my first marathon. I normally don't run because I'm a bicyclist. All my friends took bets I couldn't make it. But I did. Afterwards, though, I could hardly walk. I might do it again with better training. I had a lot of support and motivation along the way which made a difference."

The Classifieds

The following guidelines will assist you in placing an ad in the Headway.

- ALL COPY MUST BE CAMERA READY: In other words, what you see is what you get!
- DEADLINE: The deadline for ad copy is the 1st of the month. (That is June 1st for the July issue, July 1st for the August issue, etc.) Copy received after the deadline will be published in the

following issue unless otherwise notified. SEND EARLY! Advertising space is limited at this time.

- FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ALL AD COPY Make checks payable to: SCRTD and send to 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 Advance ad payments limited to current submitted ad plus one month. The editor reserves the right to refuse any ad.

ADVERTISING RATES

FULL PAGE: \$160 (7-3/8 X 9-5/8) HALF PAGE: \$80 (4-3/4 X 7-1/4 horizontal) or (3-5/8 x 9-5/8 vertical)
 QTR. PAGE: \$40 (3-5/8 X 4-3/4)
 8TH. PAGE: \$20 (2-3/8 X 3-5/8 business card)

Classified ads sent by non-employees are accepted at a cost of \$3.75 per line per month. RTD employees' and retirees' classified ads will continue to run free.

Behind The Scenes

Editor's Note: Each month we would like feature one of you out there who has never been in the *Headway*. If you would like to appear, please fill out the form below and mail to *Headway*, RTD, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013. We will come out and take a photo of you to go along with your info.

Name: _____

Residence: _____

Age: _____

Years at RTD: _____

What I Do: _____

Why My Job Is Important: _____

Why I like What I Do: _____

What My Supervisor Says About Me: _____

What I Do When I'm Not Working: _____

Axel's Green Thumb

Last month, I explained that there are 16 nutrients that are necessary for plant life. This month, we will learn why there are so many different combinations available and what their purposes are for the gardener.

The growing season for most plants is from spring to fall. For instance, in order to have a good healthy lawn, fertilizer with a combination of 16-8-4 is an excellent choice with some secondary and micronutrients in the mixture. This combination will stimulate new growth and provide a good base for the rest of the season. Later in the season a supplemental application of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) is good. The reason is that as you mow your lawn you will be removing nitrogen with the grass clippings. (The clippings should be returned to the soil as compost/organic material depending upon the quality.) As a final feeding in the fall, use the general purpose 16-8-4 fertilizer again and your lawn will remain greener for a longer period of time during the winter, if it is a warm season grass (warm season—St. Augustine or Bermuda, cool season—Blue Grass or Rye).

If you like flowers like roses, a formula of 6-12-4 is available. You will notice that this combination has a high amount of phosphorus. Plants require phosphorus for proper flower/fruit/seed development. In order to obtain a lot of flowers from your roses here is a hint: cut

the flowers at their peak; this causes the plant to produce more flowers. The natural cycle that the plant follows is to reproduce itself and if you disrupt this cycle, the plant then tries again. Once the flowers have gone into fruit or seed, flower production will decrease.

For fruit trees, the common "Citrus and Avocado" food is available in the formulation of 5-10-10. Trees do not require that much nitrogen from fertilizers because their root system goes deep and

*Why are there
so many
different combinations
of nutrients
available?*

spreads out and finds nitrogen from areas such as your lawn. The trees (fruit) require applications of phosphorus and potassium for proper fruit set.

There are so many different combinations available, so you could use the above as a guide for your own uses. The all-purpose types contain just about all that we will need unless you have a specific need for something different.

There are some specialized formulas for certain types of plants. Azaleas require a more acid soil condition for their growth than what our soils in the

arid west offer. A common deficiency noticed is iron because the soil has "locked it up." Our soils are more alkaline because of low annual rainfall. On the east coast, the opposite is true. They receive a lot of rainfall and this causes a more acid soil.

One of the first signs of a lack of nutrients is stunted growth or lack of vigor in the plant. A common sign of nitrogen deficiency is slow growth and the yellowing of the older leaves; there is a yellow-green color for some plants. Nitrogen is mobile in the plant and as the plant grows it removes the nitrogen from the older leaves in order to support the newer growth. A common sign of phosphorus deficiency is slow growth and purplish color in some plants. If potassium is deficient, there will be slow growth, leaf tip "burn," weak stalks, and small fruit.

These are most of the signs of nutrient deficiencies that we will observe for the average garden in southern California.

Next month I will discuss our favorite 6-legged garden friends, their enemies, and ways to control the pests naturally.

Axel Heller is a Digital Technician with the Facilities Maintenance Department and has a Bachelor's Degree in Park Administration / Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly, Pomona.

Restaurant Review

by Sue Harvey

Sometimes nothing but a hamburger will do, but not just any burger. Most of the chains like Burger King, Wendy's, et al., produce hamburgers that are all the same. I don't care what they say, they do not do it your way!

If I want a good, quick, and inexpensive burger I will go to In-and-Out Burgers. They are as close to a special order as you can get. Their burgers are made as you order them. They are never made ahead of time and kept in a warmer. And if you ask for it with no salt on the burger, the don't put salt on it.

However, when I want a real burger made my way, something that I can sink my teeth into, we go the Hampton's in Hollywood. They start with a half-pound burger with crisp bacon, cheese, and avocado. When you place your order, you will notice there are no condiments on the table. When your burgers are ready they call you into another room where they have lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, and all the carrot salad, as well as pasta salad. You fix your burger the way you like. We like ours rare and that's how it's served.

They have plain burgers, cheese burgers, burgers with mushrooms, broccoli, and burgers with chili. And for those who want something different, burgers with sour cream and caviar. They also have

continued on page 30...

RTD GOES TO THE MOVIES

Our Rating System

- **** A classic; *Dinner at Eight*, with Jean Harlow
 - **** Excellent; worth seeing
 - *** Average; okay, but don't go out of your way
 - ** Fair; it tries, but flawed
 - * Poor; don't bother
- BOMB** - *Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde* — Dr. Jekyll drinks his potion and turns into a woman. Really.

Skin Deep - ****

The film opens with a woman named Angie entering Zach's home, and discovering him fooling around with another woman. In a jealous rage, she grabs a gun from a drawer in the study, and marches upstairs to splatter her lover all over the bedroom wall. In the middle of this confrontation, Alix, his wife, returns home unexpectedly, and is surprised to discover that not only does Zach keep a mistress, but that he's been cheating on her, too. Alix's only comment to Angie is, "If you're going to shoot him, take him outside. Those are new sheets."

Once again, Blake Edwards is treating us to his unique vision of the battle between the sexes. The story is much the same as in many of Edwards' previous films; the hero (or

anti-hero), Zach, doesn't really appreciate the good woman he has, and wants to get himself a second, while keeping the first. Then, like a little boy with a cookie jar, he wants more, until he gets his hands slapped. Only by pulling himself, his life, and his priorities together can he win back Alix, the woman he was married to, and the only one he discovers he really wants.

What keeps these films fresh is that Blake Edwards had a keen eye for the ever-changing rules of the game, and the basic relationship of man to woman provides for a never-ending variety of encounters. And, for the first time, the problems of safe sex and protection have entered the arena. The subtitle for the movie is "The Comedy That Glows in the Dark" and what glows in the dark provides one of the biggest laughs I've had at the movies in several years (Can we say condom in this magazine?). Yes, it's somewhat in poor taste, but I feel it's a brilliant commentary on the changing sexual mores. Now that we realize that men should use condoms, especially in casual encounters, Edwards is hinting that the manufacturers are going to go to some very bizarre lengths to make them more attractive, and the results will probably be very silly. It's also funny what a man thinks a woman

will find attractive.

John Ritter is an excellent comedic actor, and he manages to keep Zach from becoming too whiny, thereby becoming obnoxious, although the line comes perilously close at times. Alyson Reed is Alix, his long-suffering ex-wife, and Vincent Gardenia is Zach's bartender-cum-psychiatrist. The other women in Zach's life are many and varied, most serving as little more than straight men for Zach's jokes, although Denise Crosby, as Angie, gets the best of Zach when she holds a gun to his head, and decides not to pull the trigger because she decides it'll be more fun to see what Alix does to him. If Edwards would have developed his predominantly female supporting cast a little more, he would have had a film that couldn't miss. Still, it's a funny, funny film, with more than enough laughs to be worth the price of admission. Parental guidance definitely recommended.

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen — ***-1/2

The main thing missing in movies and cartoons for children today is imagination. Network executives don't want to tax the little monsters' minds, just sell them toys, and doubt that a child can sit still through anything longer than an hour, ninety minutes at the most. Well, the theater at which I saw *Baron Munchausen* was filled with children and their parents. The children were beautifully behaved, and seemed to be enjoying themselves tremendously for the length of the two-hour and fifteen

minute film.

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen is the latest film from Terry Gilliam, who was hailed by the critics for that awful mish-mash known as *Brazil*. Well, most of the critics hate *Baron Munchausen*, while I highly recommend it for parents with children, or people who have a "sense of wonda." For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Baron, he's a European folk hero who told outlandish tales and always swore they were true. We travel from a harem to the moon to the center of the earth and into the belly of a whale, the Baron trying to reassemble his old servants in order to free a town from the besieging Turks. It's lush, extravagant, and a little bit tongue in cheek. John Neville (anyone remember him as the Duke of Malborough in *The First Churchill*?) stars as the Baron, with Eric Idle as the fastest man alive. Also appearing are Johnathon Pryce, Sting, and Robin Williams.

By the time you read this, the film will probably be gone, pulled from release because Universal isn't spending money to promote it, so the crowds are not large enough to justify keeping it in the theaters (Gilliam reportedly spent more than \$45 million, which means it would have to be a mega-hit to make any money). Watch for it on videotape, though. This is one your children should enjoy. Please be advised that there are a few bare bosoms, but the MPAA gave the film a PG-13 rating.

Be seeing you —
Carolyn Kinhead

RECREATION NEWS



...Restaurant

...continued from page 28

turkey burgers for those who are kidding themselves. All the burgers come with the salads and condiments.

As a good side dish there are Suzy-Q potatoes. These are potatoes cut in a corkscrew shape and deep fried. One order is plenty for two people. Their soup is excellent. We like their fresh vegetable soup. They also serve salads big enough for two as well as chicken and shrimp dishes. But we go there for the burgers: big,

juicy, delicious, messy, and great, and made our way!

If you can, try to save room for the desserts. The key lime pie is outstanding and for the chocoholics, try chocolate morte. Chocolate, chocolate chip cake with chocolate ice cream with hot bittersweet fudge topping.

Hampton's uses only the best products, prime beef, Haagen-Daz ice cream, etc. The price for a burger is about six dollars which includes the salads. It is well worth the price.

Hampton's, 1342 Highland Avenue in West Hollywood. (213) 469-1090.

ORIGINAL CREATIONS

Jewelry Design Showroom & Manufacturer

- ◆ All Jewelry Guaranteed 14 kt Plumb Gold
- ◆ Rings, Chains, Pendants, Earrings, Diamonds, and Loose Precious Stones
- ◆ Castings, Mountings, Tools, Findings and a complete line of Jewelry Supplies.

Shop our bright, modern, and fully stocked showroom, or call our toll-free number to receive your free catalog, and you can shop by phone. All merchandise shipped UPS.

- ◆ Custom Designs & Repairs at your Request. Show RTD ID or this ad for your discount to SCRTD employees, retirees, and their families and friends.

To Serve Your Jewelry Needs • Monday—Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Original Creations Manufacturing Jewelers
Offices and Showrooms at 550 S. Hill St.
Suite 1420, Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 623-3315 • (213) 623-3316 • (213) 623-3319
Calif. only (800) 821-7577 • National (800) 424-1555

Most Major Credit Cards Accepted
Validated Parking with purchase of \$100 or more.

May

- 20-21 Sesame Street Live—Sports Arena \$10.50
Arena seats for \$8.50
- 20 Willie Nelson and Emmy Lou Harris
Universal \$18.00
- 21 Angels vs. Milwaukee \$8.00
- 24 Dodgers vs. Philadelphia \$6.00
- 27 Dodgers vs. New York \$6.00
- 28 Dance Theatre of Harlem \$35.00 tickets for \$31.50
- 29 Dodgers vs. Montreal \$6.00

Disneyland—Sundays May 14 and 21 and Monday May 29, Memorial Day \$14.75 per person (all ages). Children 2 years and under free. (Regular admission \$23.50/Child \$18.50)

June

- 3 Angels vs. Kansas City \$8.00
- 4 Dance Theatre of Harlem \$31.50
- 10 Dodgers vs. Cincinnati \$6.00
- 15 Dodgers vs. Houston \$6.00
- 17-18 Playboy Jazz Festival prices TBA
- 18 Dodgers vs. Atlanta \$6.00
- 24 Angels vs. Baltimore \$8.00
- 24 Smokey Robinson—Universal \$24.00
- 25 Tiffany—Universal \$19.00 for \$14.00
- 28 Dodgers vs. San Diego \$6.00
- 30 Dodgers vs. Pittsburgh \$6.00
- 30 Ashford and Simpson—Universal \$19.50

Knott's Berry Farm, June 17-23, \$12.00 per person.
Regular prices—Adult \$19.95, Children \$15.95 (2 years and under admitted free)

Wild Rivers Water Park in Irvine. Adults (10 and older) \$10.50 regular \$14.95. Children (3-9) \$7.95 regular \$10.95

Raging Waters—Water Park in San Dimas. Adults \$8.95, Child \$7.75.

Tickets available through the Employee Activities Department, 2nd floor of the Headquarters Building, 972-4740.

Decorators' best kept secret!

5% MEMBERSHIP CARD

Your free 5% Bonus Discount card is waiting for you at FMSA. Bring this ad with you and we will issue you your card. This card can be used on all furniture and mattress items. (Sale Items, carpeting, draperies and appliances excluded)



BONUS DISCOUNT TO RTD EMPLOYEES 65,000 sq. ft. Furniture Department Store

Since 1949, L.A.'s smartest interior decorators have brought their customers here. No other store offers our kind of selection, quality and prices. You'll actually shop in a 3-story megastore filled with more quality furniture under one roof than you ever dreamed possible.

Department Stores—Eat Your Hearts Out!

The same brand names, quality, style, fashion and service available at finer department stores. But you'll pay up to 30% below their everyday and sale prices. Why? Low rent, family ownership and a small but expert sales staff means our overhead is a fraction of other stores.

Charge It.

Revolving Charge and 90-day no interest (O.A.C.) Visa/Mastercard/Discover/American Express.

FMSA

Furniture Manufacturers Sales Agency, Inc.

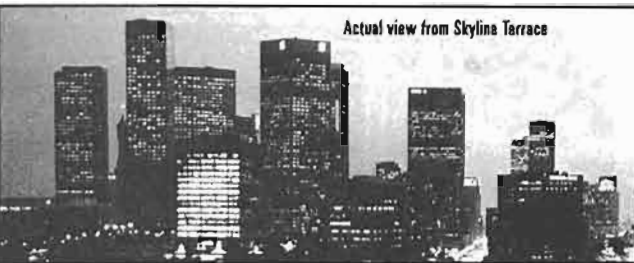
2027 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles — (213) 746-3663
Tues.-Fri.: 10 AM-6 PM Sat.: 9 AM-5 PM; Sun.: Noon-5 PM

Closed Mondays



**Brand New
Apartments!**

**GREAT
LOW
PRICES!**



Uptown Living. Downtown Convenience.

Two great reasons to put yourself in our place.

Skyline Terrace offers the best of both worlds with its spectacular views and resort-like amenities, blended with easy access to Los Angeles business, cultural and social life.

- Unique one, one + den and two bedroom/two bath floorplans, many with double master suites
- Individual washers and dryers
- Closed circuit TV entry system in each unit
- Controlled-access entry with private underground parking • Patios or balconies
- Swimming pool and therapeutic spa
- High Tech fitness center with saunas and showers • Party/Conference Room
- Lush interior gardens including a special meditation courtyard

Skyline Terrace

930 Figueroa Terrace
Los Angeles
213/481-7368

Decorator models open 9-6 daily.
Sorry, no pets. An R&B Managed Property



HEADWAY

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

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

Mailing address: Headway, 2nd Floor, 425 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

Mary E. Reyna, Editor
Carolyn Frazier, Business Manager
Staff Writers:
Elia Hager,
Carolyn Kinkead, and Luanna Urie

Typesetting, design, and production:
Nancy Niebrugge Public Relations

Printed by: RTD Printing Department
Al Moore, Manager

Southern California
Rapid Transit District
425 So. Main St., 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Los Angeles, Ca.
Permit No. 32705