

HEADWAY

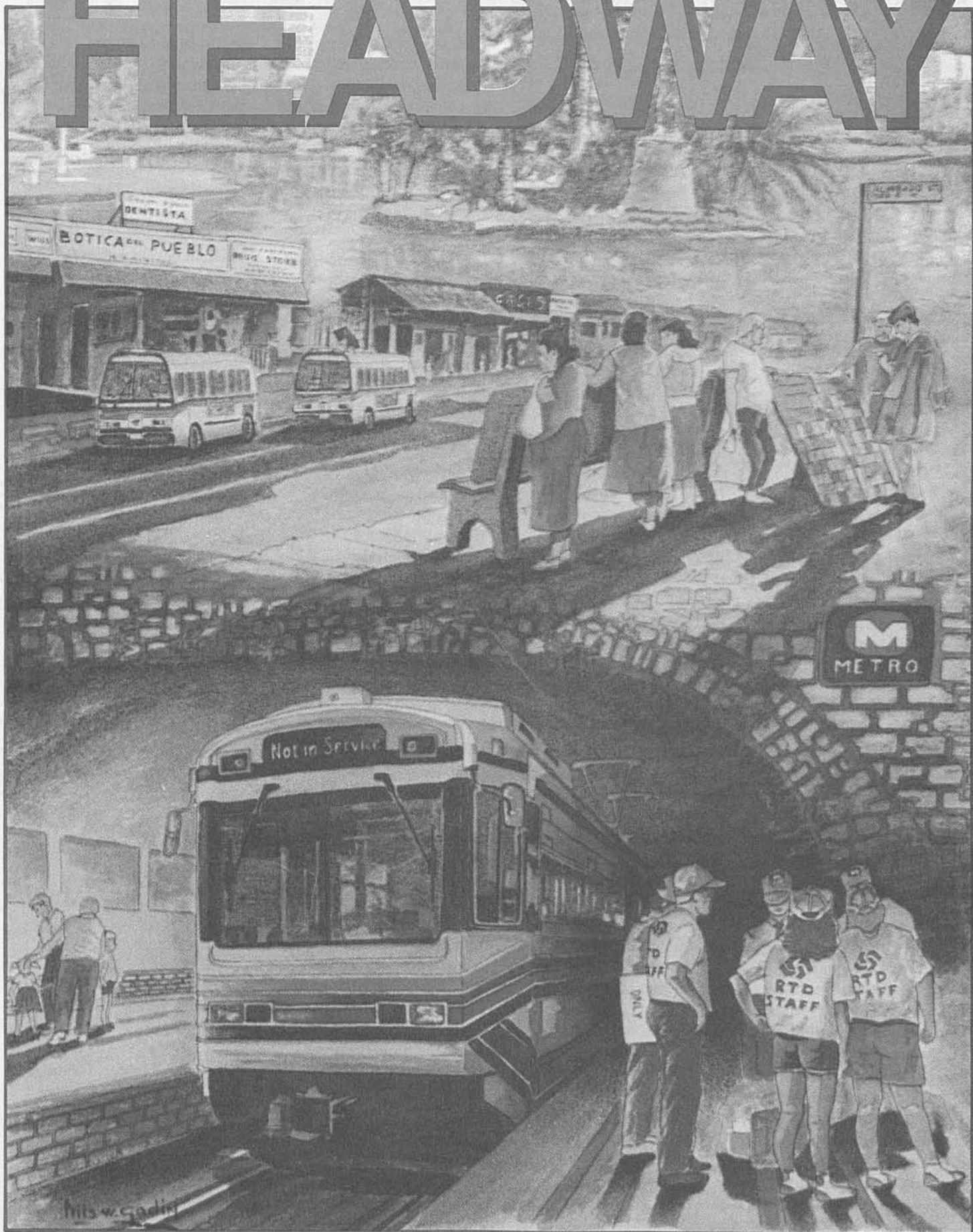


Illustration by W. Gadin

Letter from the President



Dear RTD Employees:

In answering a question about the range of activities and duties of the Facilities Maintenance Department, a supervisor replied: "We take care of everything from the roof to the drain, and everything in between."

To that I might add the sky above.

Few RTD employees may know this, but the District maintains its own microwave and telephone communications system that carries messages beamed from some of the higher peaks in Los Angeles County, as well as from one in Riverside County.

I salute this month the Facilities Maintenance Department, truly a diverse and complex department which keeps our buildings and grounds in good repair and our communications systems up and running. The department also keeps the catenary and trackway of the Blue Line operational.

Seven sections make up

the Facilities Maintenance Department. Together they provide complete maintenance and service on District-owned and leased buildings. They also handle a broad scope of services that include the communications networks using microwave radio, fiber optic, and telephone channels for bus and light rail operations, janitorial services, and bus stop signage and maintenance. Seven components make up the department: General Services, Building and Grounds, Electrical/Electronic, Stops and Zones, Sign Shop, Maintenance of Way, and Administration/Engineering.

Altogether, the Facilities Maintenance Department has 417 full-time employees. Without their hard work we would not have the support systems to field nearly 2,000 buses every day.

Our District-owned microwave system provides a remarkable example of

RTD capability. Microwave repeater sites are situated high and low to serve the 12 bus operating divisions and Blue Line communications installations.

On Sierra Peak in Riverside County, an RTD microwave repeater is perched at 3,046 feet. Near Glendale and La Canada, another RTD microwave tower sits at 3,014-foot elevation. In contrast, another portion of the system features a repeater at Division 12 in Long Beach at only 10 feet above sea level.

Our Electrical/Electronic section maintains each site and recently linked the Blue Line Central Control Facility on Imperial Highway at Willowbrook Avenue to the system.

And there are bus stops--20,000 of them. A stop can't be established or abandoned at the whim of the District. Neither can a stop be redefined or moved without a formal process that takes into account safety for RTD passengers.

The Stops and Zones component, with 35 full-time employees, places and repairs all bus stop signs, selects layover locations, and coordinates the production and installation of signs for other bus agencies.

The RTD Sign Shop produces the bus signage for Stops and Zones. The shop meets the signage needs of the District and has been busy with bus-rail interface since prior to the opening of the Blue Line.

With the opening of the

Metro Blue Line, the Maintenance of Way section brought a new dimension to the Facilities Maintenance Department. New job titles and descriptions appeared, such as rail facilities superintendent, rail communications supervisor, rail signal supervisor, rail traction power supervisor, and inspectors of rail tracks and signals. Without those important jobs and the qualified people who fill them, the trains wouldn't move.

Those are only some of the activities, responsibilities, and projects carried out on a daily basis by the RTD Facilities Maintenance Department under the leadership of Ed Walsh. Like all other employees at RTD, their work keeps the District functioning at top performance levels. If our buildings and grounds look good, and our communications systems and light rail equipment and traction are up and running at optimum levels, then we look good to the public and can better serve our patrons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nick Patsouras". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, larger outline of the name.

Nick Patsouras
President, Board of
Directors

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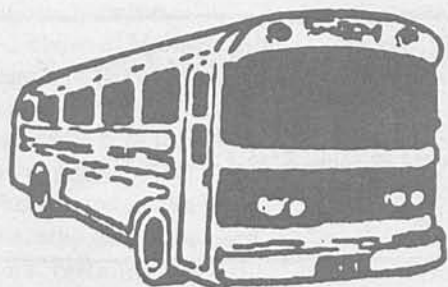
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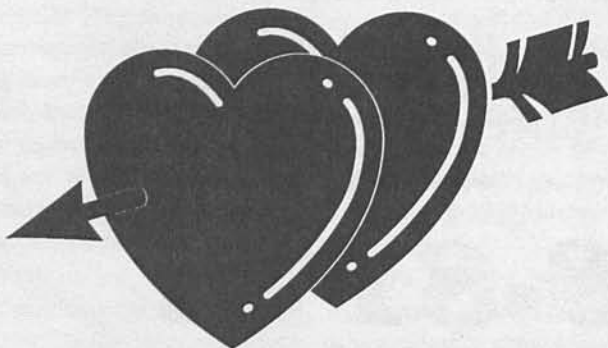
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The Headway . . .

is published by the Southern California Rapid Transit District for the employees, retirees, and its friends every month. *Headway* is guided by a policy approved by the General Manager and published in the Human Resources Policy Manual. A copy is available on request.

Views and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect official District policy.

The *Headway* welcomes contributions from RTD employees and retirees--letters to the editor, story ideas, opinions, employee and staff activities, and other submissions. Deadline is the first day of the month for inclusion in the following month. Submissions should be typed double-spaced and signed by the author or on disk using the Wordstar 4 program. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor should not be more than 500 words and should be submitted on disk whenever possible. The editor reserves the right to select, edit, and position all copy.

Stories may be reprinted with acknowledgment of source.

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Member: International Association of Business Communicators and California Association of Public Information Officers.

This issue is dedicated to peace in the Middle East and to all the RTD Servicewomen and Servicemen and RTD employees' sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers now stationed in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf, and to my brother.

--The Editor

Neither the *Headway* nor the RTD endorses the products or verifies the accuracy of the claims made in the advertising, which has appeared, appears, and will appear on the pages of the *Headway*. The advertising is simply a revenue-generating measure. Further, we reserve the right to reject any objectionable ad.

Division 16 Selected Division of the Month



Division 16 was named Division of the Month for November 1990.

Division 16 was chosen Division of the Month for November, 1990 it was announced by RTD Board President Nick Patsouras and General Manager Alan Pegg on December 27, 1990 at a ceremony held at the division at 5:30 a.m.

"We are here today to congratulate you for a job well done," said Patsouras. "Based on your hard work and respect shown to our customers you have proved you are Number 1."

General Manager Alan Pegg told the operators and mechanics that it was a great pleasure to be with the winners. "You people who are out on the front-line, who do all the hard work, certainly know that this recognition is overdue. It is this workforce that makes the RTD a success!"

Patsouras and Pegg presented the service excellence awards to

Transportation Manager Evelyn Frizelle and to Maintenance Manager John Adams. A flag was unfurled and presented to both Maintenance and Transportation employees who held it up proudly. The flag declaring Division 16 as the "Outstanding Division" will be flown beneath the flag of California.

RTD Board Director Jerold Milner was also in attendance for the ceremony. "I too enjoy being with winners," he said. "It is a pleasure to get up at the crack of dawn when you're in such excellent company."

Selection of the Division of the Month is based on composite scores after a division comparison of safety and performance indicators which include: absenteeism, traffic accident frequency rate,

occupational injury rate, the number of cancellations and out-lates, and the number of bus-related customer complaints registered. Additional criteria applicable to Maintenance included improvement of miles between road calls and accessible service reliability, occupational injuries, and coach cleanliness.

Based on these criteria, Division 16's performance was outstanding. The division experienced only 1.63 total days absent per full-time equivalent employee during the monitored period.

Traffic accident frequency per 100,000 hub miles was only 2.92 during the month. Occupational injuries per 100,000 hours of exposure totaled only 3.13.

The number of cancellations were 0 and out-lates

only reached 8. Bus-related customer complaints were at a low of 20.

Transportation Manager Evelyn Frizelle attributed the division's placement to the dedication of the employees. "It's due to the operators, service attendants, and mechanics all trying to make this an outstanding division. We know we are always in competition with Foothill Transit. They care about the RTD very much and want to see it continue. We have a very close, cohesive

The division's showing was a result of their

"Can-Do"

Attitude

group out here between Maintenance and Transportation. We work together and it shows," she said.

Maintenance Manager John Adams commented that the division's showing was a result of their "Can-Do" attitude. "We have to do everything better each month. We want an alternate fuels station out here. This shop is outdated, so this is our 'marketing' attempt. But even with what we have we do quality work."

Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Robert Torres warned Division 1 to watch out. "We'll take all that high technology and use it out here. We've got the high seniority people who know how to use it."

RTD Calls for Reform of Minority Business Enterprise Rules

by Andrea Greene, Press Relations Representative

The District has called for a two-pronged legislative reform effort that will focus on closing loopholes in federal and state legislation governing contractors performing construction carried out with federal and state funding.

"There is a need for reform at the federal and state levels of the rules applied to government agencies and their monitoring of the requirements attached to funding that ensure the proper awarding of contracts to minority and female-owned businesses," said RTD Board President Nick Patsouras.

Specifically, Patsouras said, "We believe state contracting laws must be modified to give government agencies greater flexibility and rights to monitor the relationship between prime contractors and minority subcontractors.

"Second, we believe federal regulations need to be purged of their ambiguities. Loopholes must be closed to prevent some individuals from unfairly taking advantage of the system," he said.

On December 28, 1990, President Patsouras asked General Manager Alan Pegg and Neil Peterson, executive director of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC), to develop within 60 days a series of legislative proposals that can be taken to Sacramento and Wash-

ington, D.C., to enable elected legislators to clean up those two areas.

"I have worked for the last six months to lead the RTD to a greater sense of commitment in providing quality public transit, and I am just as committed to seeing that these legislative reforms are put into place.

"It is an undisputed fact that minorities need a break-- but the rules under which public agencies such as the RTD and LACTC operate are flawed."

"The legal changes that we will seek will benefit all government agencies--not just transit. Anyone responsible for large-scale public works projects and the investment of public monies in such projects will benefit," Patsouras said.

Currently, agencies such as the RTD and the LACTC are restricted in the methods by which they can regulate prime contractors in their hiring of minority subcontractors, and enforce performance and payment of minority firms hired as subcontractors.

"The inconsistencies in current state and federal

regulations may have resulted in some individuals [who were not disadvantaged] unfairly taking advantage of their ethnic origin or gender, or in some business operators taking advantage of certain individuals because of their gender or ethnic affiliation," Patsouras said.

He noted that federal and state requirements established in the last two decades "have gone a long way to provide authentic minorities an opening to participate in the American business dream, and the RTD is proud to have provided job and investment opportunities for scores of qualified minority-owned business enterprises."

He added that there

may have been abuses, referring to instances cited in a series of three articles published by the *Los Angeles Times* in December, 1990.

"In our Board meetings, we have long debated publicly whether there is a need for reform, and we hope that our state and federal lawmakers will listen to our pleas," Patsouras said.

"It is an undisputed fact that minorities need a break--but the rules under which public agencies such as the RTD and LACTC operate are flawed. We commend the *Times* for shining a spotlight on those areas. We hope those with the power to make changes in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., will do so."

Special Holiday Rates Give Patrons Needed Break as Recession Looms

The District gave patrons a break over the holidays as everyone was feeling the pinch from economic uncertainty and the current recession. The special fares, approved by the RTD Board of Directors, were RTD's way of wishing its customers a merry Christmas and adding a little spirit to their holiday season.

Patrons were able to ride any RTD bus throughout the service area for 60 cents for regular fare and 30 cents for senior/disabled fare. There was no charge for express zones during the special fare period. The special fare schedule did not apply to the Metro Blue Line.

The special fare period extended from December 17 to December 28 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. RTD marketing representatives were on hand at different shopping malls with information on the special holiday fares and general RTD customer information.

The discount program will be evaluated to determine if similar programs can be implemented either throughout the District's service area or in specific regions.

Ten Years of Accessible Service Celebrated

RTD celebrated 10 years of accessible service to the disabled community on December 18, 1990. The District honored employees and community leaders who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure those individuals with physical disabilities have equal access to public transportation.

"For the past 10 years, RTD has been committed to providing the disabled community access to public transportation and today we renew our vow of providing accessible service through the 1990's and beyond," said RTD Board President Nick Patsaouras.

"Today we honor the men and women who operate the buses, maintain the wheelchair lifts and operate RTD's accessible service hotline in assisting those patrons with physical disabilities," added Patsaouras.

Those employees honored included Division 18 Operator Ignatius Arellano who has successfully, courteously and safely transported 275 wheelchair passengers. Accessible Service Mechanics Fred Vincelet from Division 18 and Gene Trombley at Division 8 have been major contributors in maintaining a high rate of successful lift usage in the buses in their divisions through the excellence and timeliness in their work. Division 9 Road Supervisor Fred McReynolds has performed outstanding service to the accessible service program by alerting staff of operational and procedural



RTD Board President Nick Patsaouras (center) honored members of the disabled community and RTD employees at a press conference held December 18. Honorees included disabled community advocates Kim Horton (front, far left) and Sue Ridenour (on left). Back row, from left to right: Division 8 Mechanic Gene Trombley and Division 18 Mechanic Fred Vincelet, Division 18 Operator Ignatius Arellano, Ticket and Reports Clerk Louis Burns, TOS-VO Frank McReynolds, unidentified operator, Telephone Information Supervisor David Ullrich, and TOS-Communications David Woods.

problem areas. Ticket Office and Reports Clerk Louis Burns has participated in the accessible service program to an exceptional degree. Besides providing personal assistance to patrons in the reduced fare office, Burns has participated in the Citizens Advisory Committee for Accessible Transportation. Telephone Information Supervisor Dave Ullrich has been commended by many patrons in wheelchairs who call the Hot Line for assistance when some operational problems occur. He has consistently gone beyond the requirements of the job by getting to know his constituency by name and taking a personal interest in expediting their trips. TOS-Communications

David Woods has taken an outstanding interest in making sure that persons in wheelchairs are transported when there is a traffic or breakdown problem by ensuring that connecting buses await them. Additionally, Woods created the slogan "Accessibility is Everybody's Business."

In 1974, RTD adopted a policy to purchase all new buses with wheelchair lifts to accommodate disabled persons. In taking this action, RTD became the first transit agency in the nation to adopt a policy calling for equal access to all bus patrons.

A year later, the District created a citizen's Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation to assist in the development

of a plan to implement an accessible program--bus service that eventually began in 1980.

RTD presently operates accessible service on 100 percent of the District's 192 bus lines that encompass a service area of nearly 1,500 square miles.

"Today, 97 percent of RTD's bus fleet of 2,600 buses are equipped with a wheelchair lift and in the next couple of years the entire fleet will be lift equipped," said RTD General Manager Alan F. Pegg.

Also honored were former RTD Board Director Jack Day, instrumental in establishing the special Ad Hoc Committee on Accessible Service, and Yvonne Nau and Sue Ridenour, representatives of the disabled community, for their outstanding contributions in assuring that public transportation is accessible.

"Those individuals have given so much of their time and energy to the District and really laid the groundwork for making accessible service to the disabled community become a reality," said Patsaouras.

Of the 1.3 million boarding passengers RTD serves each weekday, 40,000 daily riders, or three percent, are disabled. Besides the physically disabled, these include persons with visual and hearing impairments, developmental disabilities, and mental impairments.

continued on page 9...

Methanol Buses Mark Millionth Mile

by Greg Davy, Press
Relations Representative

RTD's fleet of 30 methanol-powered buses, the largest of its kind in the world, traveled its 1 millionth mile as one of the most ambitious alternative fuel experiments ever attempted reached the three-quarter point of completion.

In that time the methanol buses have dramatically improved reliability, offered better mileage, and spewed less smoke, carbon monoxide, and the two smog-forming pollutants--hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, announced the District on December 27, 1990.

"We've proved that we can run methanol-powered buses for one-and-a-half years," said RTD Board President Nick Patsouras. "Our success rate with methanol is as good as or better than anyone else in the nation so far.

"I credit this accomplishment to our supremely dedicated alternative fuels staff," he said. "Transit agencies around the globe are looking to them expectantly for answers. Their skill and patience during this experiment is paying off handsomely with some very hopeful results."

The 30 methanol engines were built by Detroit Diesel and installed in RTD buses specifically for this demonstration. Among the most encouraging findings to date of the experiment, officially begun in June, 1989:

- Particulate emissions are virtually eliminated.

Tests have shown that methanol engines emit only a fourth of the particulates of a current diesel engine.

- Oxides of nitrogen emissions, which contribute to the air's ozone layer, have been reduced 50 percent with methanol.

- RTD has been able to increase methanol's fuel economy by about 10 percent over the 18-month period. This has been



achieved through the implementation of 30 different engineering modifications. Buses powered by diesel get an average of 3.4 miles per gallon, while methanol currently provides about 1.2 miles per gallon.

"The experiment has had the 'growing pains' that were expected," said General Manager Alan F. Pegg, "and we've had failures. But we've always found out why the failures occurred and corrected them."

A number of key difficulties present at the start of the test have been markedly reduced or eliminated as RTD alterna-

tive fuel technicians continue to fine-tune methanol engines:

- The failure of fuel injectors, which occurred at a rate of about 30 a month in the experiment's early stages, has been reduced to five per month, largely due to the use of a fuel additive manufactured by Lubrizol, an Ohio-based company specializing in engine oil additives.

- Operators initially reported that it took longer for a methanol-powered bus to gain momentum when pressing down on the throttle. RTD mechanics eliminated this problem by closely matching methanol engine horsepower and torque specifications with those of diesel engines. Not only did the engines respond positively, the fuel economy improved--the opposite of the expected result.

"I've read about a number of other transit companies that tried methanol and abandoned it when they couldn't make it work," Pegg said. "We at RTD are making it work. I

can't emphasize enough how proud I am of everyone who has contributed. It's obvious to me that no one else in the country has pursued this challenge with the skill and determination that RTD employees have."

Based on current test results, the average life of a methanol engine is expected to deliver between 150,000 to 175,000 miles, compared to 250,000 miles for a diesel engine.

"The two most looming challenges still facing us are lengthening the methanol engine's longevity and training mechanics to be able to work on them," Pegg said.

Patsouras emphasized that, while the cost of the methanol demonstration program may appear high compared to operating diesel buses, the far greater benefit will be the long-range impact of the demonstration on the quality of Southern California's environment.

"This nation cannot underestimate the value of the test being done here at RTD," he said. "We are working hand-in-hand with local clean air authorities to gather data that ultimately will be useful to large fleet operators throughout the region.

"We must develop clear-air technology for future generations, not just in Southern California but around the world. RTD will continue to be a leader in this field."

Funding for the

continued on page 9 . . .

Methanol's Millionth Mile . . . continued from page 8

methanol test program is being provided by the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) with matching funds from the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC).

A final report on the results of the methanol test program will be issued at the end of the experiment this summer. A cost comparison of methanol versus diesel operations will be made at that time.

The methanol experiment, while the largest, is only one of several alternative fuel tests RTD is conducting. There are five RTD buses now in service powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), and six particulate traps out of a scheduled 21 have been installed on a number of diesel-powered buses to test their effectiveness in reducing emissions.

The District is also experimenting with converting diesel engines to be able to run on methanol using an additive called

Avocet. There are six formerly diesel-powered buses in the current fleet now running on the methanol/Avocet mixture. A total of 12 buses are scheduled to be converted.

Members of the Equipment Maintenance Alternate Fuels Section include: Vince Pellegrin, Equipment Maintenance Manager; Mike Marelli, Equipment Engineering Engineer; Lauren Dunlap, Equipment Engineering Engineer; Ray Wilson, Equipment Engineering Technician; George Karbowski, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor I; Dan Quigg, Jr., Equipment Engineering Technician; Randal Y. Ikeda, Administrative Analyst; Tensy Alba, Secretary; and Kenneth Shibata, Equipment Records Specialist. Warranty Equipment Mechanics include: Harvey Porter, Paul Rankin, Dale Sutherland, Gary Albertson, Paul Stanley, Dennis Dickason, Lech Gazinski, and Lloyd Arnold.



10 Years of Accessible Service

. . . continued from page 7

Wheelchair boardings average 400 a day.

"RTD will continue to provide the best possible public transportation for the disabled community and will continue our commitment to make accessible service work," said Pegg.

There are numbers available for the disabled to call for more information

and other services. For operators and other employees who may be asked, these numbers are: (213) 626-4455 to request information on the District's accessible service program; a toll-free hotline number at 1-800-621-7828 for wheelchair lift service problems; and persons with hearing impairments may call TTY # (800) 252-9040.

Bicycles Permitted Soon on Line 130

Bicycles will be allowed on Line 130 (Artesia Boulevard) buses, announced General Manager Alan Pegg on December 18, 1990.

The RTD Board of Directors approved the six-month pilot project which will begin as soon as the bicycle racks are designed and tested.

"RTD in its quest for transportation solutions, is considering all forms of ride-sharing, including

bicycles," said General Manager Pegg. "Hopefully, our bicycle-on-bus program will increase and improve mobility options for RTD patrons."

Line 130 was chosen because it travels through several biking locations and areas of interest to riders along its east-west course from the Fullerton Park-and-Ride lot to Torrance Boulevard and Broadway in Redondo Beach.

"The success of the demonstration program will be monitored and evaluated, and if demand is high, RTD will consider its implementation on other lines."

The bike racks are to be mounted on the front of the buses and will be custom designed. Other cities using front-mounted racks include Seattle, Santa Clara, and Phoenix.

The District last

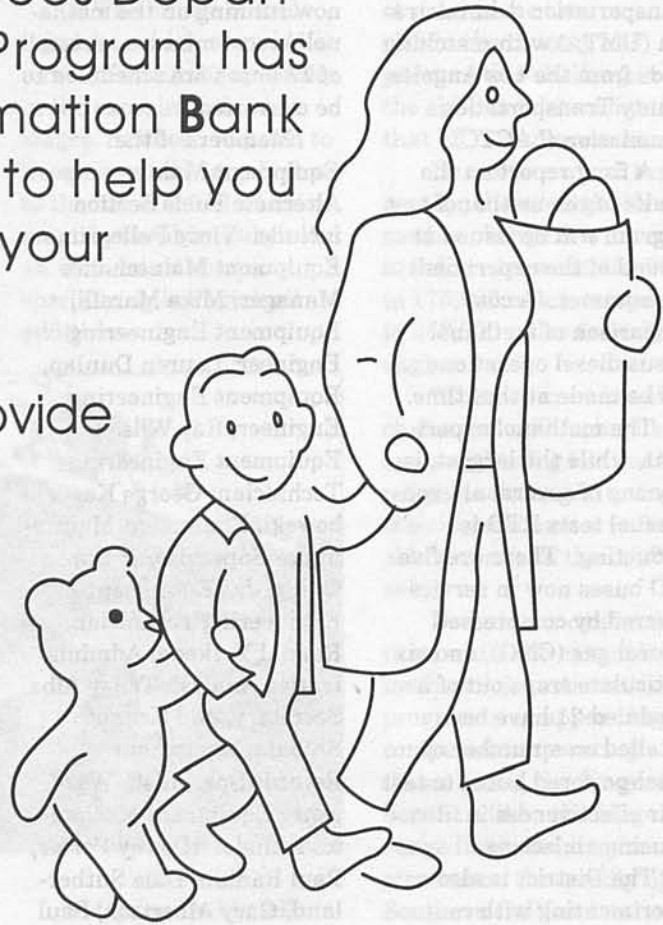
experimented with bikes on buses in 1980, but the program was discontinued because usage was low.

During the first week of December, 1990, the RTD Board approved a permit procedure allowing bicycles on Blue Line trains. Before the Line 130 program is started, staff will decide whether or not a similar permit should be required.

LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE?

The SCRTD Human Resources Department's Dependent Care Program has a **Childcare Referral Information Bank (CRIB)** program designed to help you find childcare that meets your needs!!


RTD's **CRIB** program can provide you with information about licensed childcare centers, family day care homes, infant care centers, and/or school-age day care centers, within specific zip code areas.



For information about the **CRIB** program as well as other Dependent Care Services and Benefits provided by RTD, call:
Dependent Care Office at (213) 972-7155

PLEASE NOTE: The RTD does not endorse or make recommendations regarding the quality of any child care provider and/or program. Parents are responsible for making all final selection decisions.

SCHEDULE CHANGES



Ahaus, Charlotte F., from Prepaid Sales Aide to Asst. Accounts Rep.

Berger, Suzanne B., from Buyer Assistant to Buyer.

Bowman, Nedra M., from Bus Operator (P/T) to Bus Operator (F/T).

Burnley, Elston P., from Transit Police Sergeant to Transit Police Lieutenant.

Chau, To, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Chavez, Salvador M., from Janitor to Mopper Waxed.

Cooper, Anita, from Stock Clerk to General Clerk.

Desai, Narendra M., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Ebarb-Hernandez, Lorraine P., from Typist Clerk to Clerk.

Elliott, Mana, from Transit Police Officer (trainee) to Transit Police Officer.

Fagernes, Kent O., from Stock Clerk to Storekeeper.

Fitzgerrell, Bruce C., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Frazier, Errol, from Stock Clerk to Equipment Records Specialist.

Gaerlan, Maria, from Prepaid Sales Aide to Asst. Accounts Rep.

Grewal, Harmeet K., from Special Assistant to Schedule Checker.

Grigsby, Paula E., from Assistant Customer Information Systems Coordinator to Senior Customer Information Systems Analyst.

Herrington, Otis, from Transit Police Officer (trainee) to Transit Police Officer.

Higuera, Frank A., from Transit Police Officer (trainee) to Transit Police Officer.

Holland, Frank R., from Storekeeper to Buyer Assistant.

Ibarra, Lupe, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Jones, Kitty D., from Senior Secretary to Buyer.

Lawenko, Leticia V., from Work Processor Operator to Typist Clerk.

Licea, Leopoldo Z., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Limon, Margarita, from Records Clerk to General Clerk II.

Mabe-Moreno, Ruth B., from Prepaid Sales Aides to Asst. Accounts Rep.

Melendez, Lorraine M., from Officer Supervisor to Sr. Staff Assistant.

Penn, Louvenia R., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Reyes, Joseph I., from Storekeeper to Materials Mgmt. Systems Support Analyst.

Rodriguez, Johnny, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Serrano, Gino, from Property Maintainer B to Property Maintainer A.

Tamez, Abel, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Thomas, Colette L., from Accounts Payable Clerk to Data Technician.

Tiongco, Ricardo Q., from Bus Operator to Cash Clk/Rel Vault Truck Driver.

Vallejos, Manuel E., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Vartanian, Vazgen B., from Management Information System Specialist to Senior Programmer Analyst.

Walsh, John H., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Welch, Juanita R., from PL/PD Specialist to Sr. PL/PD Specialist.

Wells, Harold W., from Storekeeper to Matrls Mgmt Sys Supp Anly.

Wielandt, Henry J., from Storekeeper to Buyer Assistant.

Youngblood, Edith A., from Prepaid Sales Rep. to Senior Accounts Rep.

Zimmerman, Richard B., from Transit Police Officer (trainee) to Transit Police Officer.

Shifting Gears

Cabrera, Seferino E., began with the District on September 8, 1980, retired as a Service Attendant on October 30, 1990.

Colapietro, M. A., began with the District on June 16, 1975, retired as a Bus Operator on September 16, 1990.

Dukes, David L., began with the District on November 25, 1967, retired as a Bus Operator on November 26, 1990.

Nehrbass, John H., began with the District on June 4, 1966, retired as a Bus Operator on December 14, 1990.

Vazquez, Ramon R., began with the District on October 12, 1980, retired as a Bus Operator on November 28, 1990.

In Memoriam

Burden, Clyde F., began with the District as a N/C Foreman on February 21, 1936, passed away on November 5, 1990.

Dimmitt, Charles E., began with the District as a Transit Operations Supervisor on September 12, 1964, passed away on December 7, 1990.

Duvigneaud, Michael W., began with the District as an Instructor of Vehicle Operations on September 5, 1946, passed away on November 9, 1990.

Elmer, Albert M., began with the District as a Bus Operator on October 2, 1923, passed away on November 25, 1990.

Evans, Will R., began with the District as a Bus Operator on May 18, 1973, passed away on October 17, 1990.

Friedlander, Arnaud, began with the District as a Transit Operations Supervisor on February 15, 1988, passed away on November 29, 1990.

Mack, Jean V., began with the District as an Equipment Records Specialist on March 29, 1979, passed away on December 4, 1990.

May, James W., began with the District as a Bus Operator on July 4, 1945, passed away on November 5, 1990.

Miller, Berton K., began with the District as a Mechanic on March 16, 1937, passed away on September 21, 1990.

Nunes, Antonio M., began with the District as a Mechanic on July 5, 1945, passed away on November 8, 1990.

Reiff, Donald R., began with the District as a Bus Operator on April 11, 1974, passed away on December 7, 1990.

Scholl, William C., began with the District as a Director of Industrial Relations on October 7, 1925, passed away on November 14, 1990.

Tolley, Cline A., began with the District as a Transportation Supervisor of Statistics on December 27, 1960, passed away on November 2, 1990.

Walton, Robert M., began with the District as a Bus Operator on January 23, 1984, passed away on October 5, 1990.

Rideshare Fair



Carrying the ridesharing message wherever there's a willing forum, these RTD zealots appear. RTD recently participated in a Rideshare Fair held at the downtown firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton. Shown here assisting Lynn Perre (second from left) are Ed Langer and Maureen Micheline from the Planning Department and Sharon Cooper from Telephone Information.

PUBLIC COMMENDATIONS

Division 3201
Gutierrez, Robert
Zuniga, Antonieta

Division 3203
Hicks, Preston H.
Turrentine, Freddie L.

Division 3205
Grimes-Jones, Charlette
Spence, Lincoln S.

Division 3206
Anderson, Angela K.
Scott, Henry P.

Division 3207
Gould, Terrie L.

Division 3208
Blaz, Edward
Nunna, Sudershanam
Uribe, Norma J.

Division 3209
Kimmon, Richard L.
Pepper, George W.

Division 3210
Gonzalez, Joe M.
Reece, Eddie G.
Rivadeneira, Alberto
Solano, Jose L.

Division 3212
Gibson, Darrell R.
Kenan, Charlie W.

Division 3215
Hernandez, Ruben J.

Division 3216
Marshall, Carlton J.

Division 3218
Geary, George W.
Roberson, Barbara O.

Department 1600
Youngblood, Edith

Dear RTD:
This letter commends an operator who often drives the first #439 out of Los Angeles weekday mornings. His name is George Geary and he is one of your finest employees. The 439 has a multi-

continued on page 13 . . .

Public Commendations . . . continued from page 12

cultural passenger load, fairly representative of the residents of Los Angeles. Geary is polite to every passenger. His demeanor suggests he is polite not because operators are expected to be courteous but, rather, because he has a sincere respect for people. Although serving the public can be challenging, Geary seems pleased to see every passenger who rides his bus.

As a review of his driving record would probably indicate, Geary is a safe driver. He drives carefully yet manages to stay on schedule in Los Angeles traffic which is sometimes unpredictable. He alerts operators of connecting lines when one of his passengers needs to catch that next bus. Geary knows where his regular passengers routinely disembark; all stops are called clearly.

If Geary is interested in training other operators, I hope that opportunity will be available to him. The public would be well-served if all your operators followed the example set by Geary. He is an asset to your company.
Sincerely,
Ms. J. Van Bergen

Dear RTD:
On November 15, 1990 I boarded your 68 bus going east to Montebello at the Transit Center, Fairfax and Washington Boulevards. The driver was Eddie Reece.

Almost immediately, Mr. Reece took complete control of his coach by

kindly requesting that all standing passengers move to the rear of the coach before the coach was in motion; assuring his passengers' safety; they in turn responded.

When the bus reached Washington Boulevard and 10th Avenue, there was an outside incident of graffiti-writing on the bus by school students. Mr. Reece, still in control and calm, exited the bus and instantly surprised the young culprits involved. He very calmly and professionally quelled the incident without the usual profanity and animosity that surrounds these dastardly acts perpetrated by our youth.

The driver then returned to his seat reassuring all of his passengers of a safe, comfortable journey on his bus. I could have polled the passengers on this bus and have gotten several dozen signatures in support of this handwritten commendation for Mr. Reece.

Your company should employ more drivers of this caliber that take control of the coaches as Mr. Reece did on this afternoon.
Respectfully,
Edward S. Yates

Dear RTD:
I am writing this letter to you because I wanted to tell you about an excellent and courteous driver you have. I come into Los Angeles from Oceanside by train and the 27, 28, or 328 line from Spring and Main to Curson and Olympic. On November 8, 1990 I was a passenger on Alberto

Rivadeneira's bus and was very impressed. He was so courteous to every passenger and knew the area he was in so he could help each passenger who needed aid in directions. He was very patient and helped in any way he could.

I never usually write letters like this, but thought he deserved some recognition as I have found drivers like him very unusual and very hard to find.
Very truly yours,
Margaret Hunter

Dear RTD:
Just have to let you know about the wonderful lady driver on route 152. She was Norma Uribe. I'm a senior citizen and she made sure I had a seat close by her. I don't think I've ever had a driver that was so kind to me and the other older people. Over the years I've written about other drivers that were very nice, but she's the best so far.
Thank you,
Mrs. Anne Kluson

Dear RTD:
I would like to commend your driver Henry Scott, for his exceptional service as an RTD driver. On November 26, 1990, a faithful band of riders of the 436 line gathered at the

corner of 6th and Hope Streets in downtown Los Angeles awaiting the arrival of Mr. Scott and his bus that he always punctually brings to that corner at 5:30 each evening.

By chance one of the riders noticed the the 436 had been removed from the sign marking that stop. We were all completely taken by surprise and had no idea where to find our bus. While we stood there contemplating what we should do next, we heard a call from a distance down the street. There Mr. Scott was calling to us to come catch the bus at the new stop at Wilshire and Flower. He had taken the time to stop his bus and walk back to the old stop to direct us to the new stop.

This was a very special action on behalf of an RTD driver. In addition to this special effort, Mr. Scott is always careful to stop at each bus stop to pick up riders (something many drivers don't do) and he always thoughtfully and courteously helps direct people who ask him directions as to how to get to a particular location or bus line. Mr. Scott is a valuable RTD employee.
Sincerely,
Judith A. Jacobson

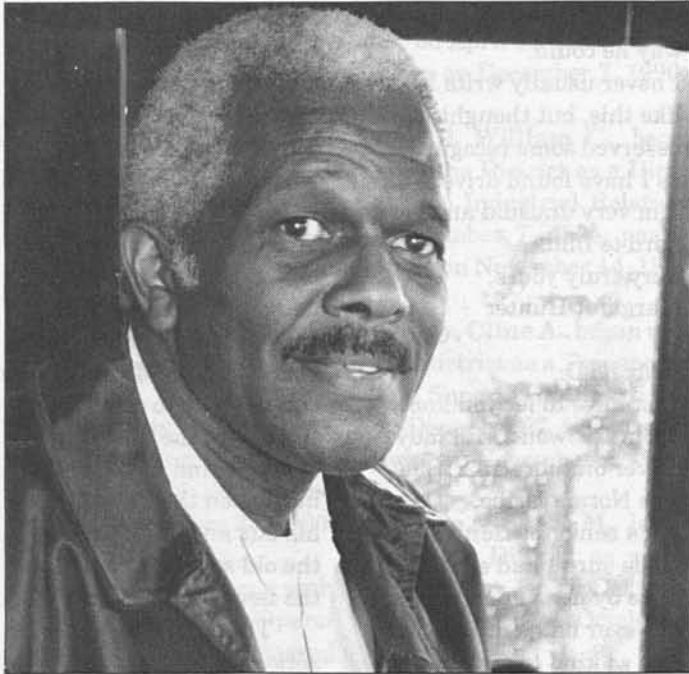


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COMMENDATIONS



Division 5 Operator Robert Perkins was selected the Operator of the Month for November 1990. Operator Perkins has been with the District since 1974. During his sixteen years of service, he has never had an avoidable accident, which has earned him a sixteen-year safety award. Mr. Perkins has maintained an excellent attendance record, not missing one day in over nine years and with only three days lost due to illness. Also, he has only two missouts which were over fifteen years ago. His merits are at 90, the highest amount attainable. Mr. Perkins has also received numerous letters of commendation from the public and his division managers.

Currently working Line 204, which is his favorite line, Mr. Perkins says he enjoys helping the elderly passengers on this line and meeting and serving all of the different people of Los Angeles.

Originally from New Orleans, Operator Perkins now resides in Gardena with his wife, Patty Jo, and their children, Robert, Micah, Richard, Joseph, and Leah. He enjoys spending much of his leisure time working with the youth department of his church and taking walks.

Operator Perkins says that he is very happy about his career with the District and that the RTD has been great to him and his family. He added that he was honored to be selected Operator of the Month. He makes his career his top priority and is dedicated to "doing the job right." His attitude toward his passengers and fellow employees, his love for people, and his defensive driving skills make him a true professional.

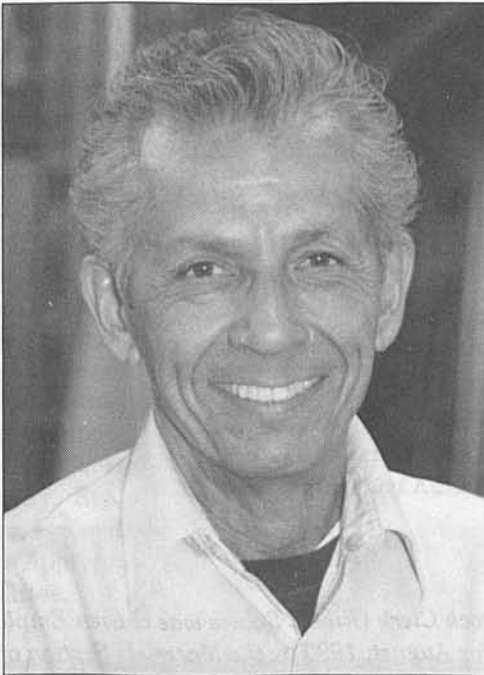
Telephone Information Operator Alicia Vasquez was chosen Operator of the Month for November 1990. Ms. Vasquez has been with the District for six years. She takes her work very seriously and goes the extra mile for her callers. Calls from patrons include those from both English- and Spanish-speaking.

Ms. Vasquez has been an operator of the month on two prior occasions, once in 1987 and again in 1988. She is definitely a model employee and quite deserving of this honor. Time and again she has proven to be an asset to the District as well as the Department.



Commendations

... continued from page 14



Division 9 Property Maintainer Rudy Valenzuela was chosen the Facilities Maintenance Employee of the Month for November 1990. Generally well liked by his peers, Mr. Valenzuela is known for his persistence and energy. As relief leadperson, he handles most problems as soon as they arise. On his own initiative, he modified the drain pipes on the District's bus washers. He fabricated and installed screens to trap refuse before it entered the drains and clogged the pipework. This modification has significantly reduced flooding problems and the downtime caused as a result. This is typical of Mr. Valenzuela. He keeps an eye open to spot problems before they arise and he is willing to put out the effort and implement his ideas.



The RTD received a resolution of appreciation from the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) for the outstanding operation of the Metro Blue Line at a joint RTD-LACTC meeting held December 5, 1990. Since the opening of the Blue Line on July 14, 1990, it has carried over 2,000,000 passengers, provided courteous service and helpful operators while maintaining an on-time performance of 98 percent. Commission Chair Edmund Edelman (right) made the presentation to General Manager Alan F. Pegg (left) and RTD Board President Nick Patsaouras (center).



RTD Board President Nick Patsaouras was honored on December 14, 1990, at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel by the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) for his outstanding contributions and innovations in the field of commuter transportation. Mr. Patsaouras is shown here receiving his award from Tricia Price of ACT.



Norma Martinez was selected as Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 1990 for the sections of the Accounting Department, including the Treasurer's Office, Cashier's Office, Investments, and Control Accounting. Ms. Martinez is a Senior Secretary working for Tom Rubin in the Controller-Treasurer's office since July of 1989. Norma is a hard-working employee, always willing to do extra. Norma believes that any job is one worth doing well. She consistently provides a high-quality performance.



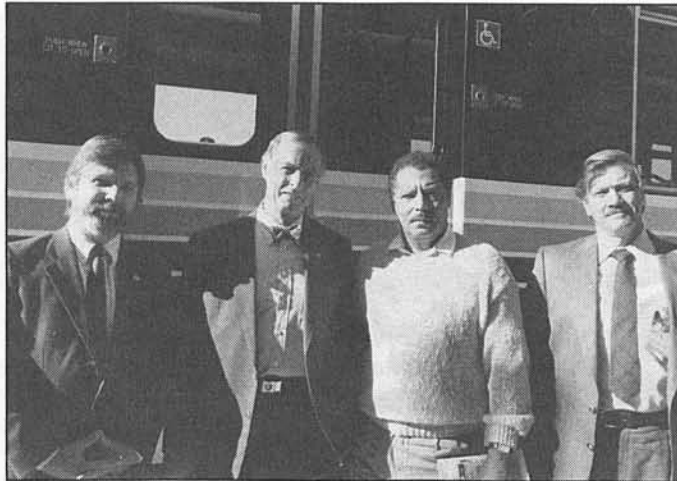
CMF Stock Clerk Gilbert Robles was chosen Employee of the Month for August, 1990 by the Materiels Section of the OCPM Department. Mr. Robles has been employed by the District since December 23, 1985. He was selected for the honor because of his consistently dependable and accurate performance in his position. Additionally, Mr. Robles has maintained perfect attendance in his tenure. He was presented with a certificate of merit by OCPM Assistant Director / Materiels Henry Koerv, left.

Facilities Maintenance Systems Leader Harold Jensen, right, was awarded \$1,000 through the Employee Suggestion Program. Mr. Jensen suggested a remote-controlled power amplifier be used for the Blue Line radio system. This idea came about after a failure during early operation. The amplifier has been installed and has kept the system up and running. Although the cost savings were difficult to measure, the innovation ensures that the public is kept safe and secure, a primary concern of District operations. Mr. Jensen was presented with a plaque and a check for \$1,000 by his supervisor Bob Boehr, left.



Congressional Train Ride

Assistant General Manager for Operations Art Leahy had the privilege of escorting two distinguished congressmen aboard the Blue Line. U.S. Rep. Lawrence Coughlin, (R-Pa.), and U.S. Rep. Julian Dixon (D-Inglewood) came to view the progress of light rail development in Los Angeles County. Rep. Coughlin, senior Republican member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, toured the Central Maintenance Facility and the Central Control Facility. Rep. Julian Dixon, is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.



Members of Capitol Hill get their first ride on the Blue Line. Joining Art Leahy were, from left to right, Rep. Lawrence Coughlin, Rep. Julian Dixon, and LACTC Director-Rail Operations Bart Kane.



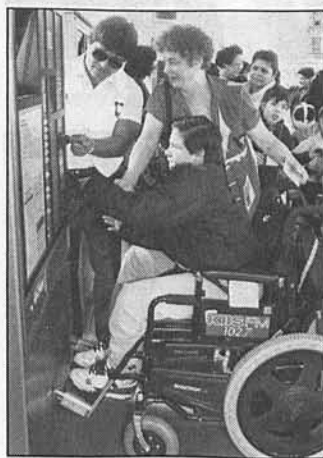
Assistant General Manager Art Leahy shows Congressman Coughlin how to use the Blue Line map and schedule. Both congressmen were given instructions on use of the ticket vending machines as well.

School Lessons on the Blue Line

With a little help from her RTD friends, special education teacher Ruth Buell got the chance to give her class a "Blue Line" lesson, that is, instructing them on ticketing and boarding the light rail conveyance.

Approximately 10 children from the Alfonso B. Perez Special Education Center in East Los Angeles were treated to their first Blue Line experience on November 30, 1990. The children from the Center range in age from 7 to 13 and are orthopedically handicapped along with some learning disabilities. Students were taken by their teachers and escorted by Prepaid Sales Supervisor David Bostwick up the ramp at the Pico and Flower Station. Once on

the platform, Operator Rich Lopez, a volunteer passenger assistant provided by the Transportation Department, showed both teachers and students how to



Operator Rich Lopez shows teacher Ruth Buell and her student Ray Villareal how to use the ticketing machine at the Blue Line Station.

purchase tickets.

Ms. Buell declared the lesson one of the most successful she has ever taught. Within a few short minutes, each student was ticketed and boarded on the train. If geometry were only so simple!

Students were shown how to purchase tickets and board

The class picnicked in Veterans' Memorial Park, which is just off the Willow Station stop. The outing gave teacher Ruth Buell a chance to entertain her class as "Uncle Ruthie" a character she portrays on the Saturday morning radio show which airs on KPFK.



Prepaid Sales Supervisor David Bostwick initiated student Ray Villareal and the rest of his class into the RTD's "Clean Team."

Organizations Raise Funds for Charity

Three RTD employee organizations pooled their resources and jointly sponsored a fund-raising bash for charity held December 20, 1990 at Little J's restaurant in downtown Los Angeles. Those organizations included Hispanics in Transit (HIT), Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), and the SCRFD Filipino Employees' Association.

The entry fee was \$12 and a canned good or grooming item for the homeless. A raffle was held for a first prize of \$150 won by Operator Gina McIntyre, second prize of \$75 won by Etta Du Bose, and third prize of \$25 won by Mary Reyna.

HIT Co-Chair Ralph Carapia said the organizations had joined together last year and been successful at raising funds for the Para Los Ninos day-care center in skid row. "We wanted to do something for the community at large. Everyone had a great time, it was an open invitation for all employees to blow off steam. And the proceeds raised by HIT went to Catholic Charities,"

Joe Vicente of the Filipino Employees' Association said the proceeds were earmarked for Catholic Charities as well.

COMTO's Elmo Douglass said the money raised by his organization went to a skid row mission.



RTD operators relax a while before the Christmas madness started. Clockwise around the table were: Steve Aguilar, Mary Lou Aguilar, Robert Castañon, Rosa Lopez, Iliana Silva, Carlos Silva, Richard Lopez, George Aguilar and a friend.



Roger Smith, Pat McCauley, and Walter Norwood felt terrific after helping those less fortunate.



Bob Torres and Barbara Lorenzo showed off with a little salsa.

You Don't Have To Have a Heart Attack

No one in this country has to die of a heart attack. We can prevent heart attacks simply by changing our daily habits. It is that simple. If we eat right, sleep right, walk more, and stop smoking, we can save our own lives.

True we will all die of something someday, but it need not be a heart attack or stroke. Today we die largely from preventable causes.

We die prematurely and fail to see our grandchildren grow up, because we refuse to make a few changes in our habits. Yes, we all enjoy fats, but like everything else we eat, liking fats is a learned taste. Once we give up fats, it is amazing how much flavor we discover in other foods.

Flavors are masked by fats, just as sugars mask the true taste of fruits which are flattened and disguised by too much sugar. We needn't be aerobic dancers, nor marathon winners to have significant exercise. We need only walk briskly three or four times a week for thirty minutes, or walk every day briskly to reach work etc. Eight hours of sleep is sensible, but we can sleep less if we spend a little time daily in meditation, a process which promotes self-healing. And surely all of us COULD quit

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AIDS and You in the Workplace

by Luanna Urie, Human Resources Analyst

CAN YOU GET AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE? "NO," said the two AIDS education specialists from the Red Cross. A two hour program on AIDS was presented to employees at the headquarters building by Sandra Grisson and Sandra Rogers on December 4 and 5, 1990.

This excellent program is based upon the latest research from all over the world, and the answer to whether or not you can get AIDS through the workplace is an unequivocal "NO!" The research done in country after country, proves that the HIV virus CANNOT be transmitted from person to person through any kind of casual contact. It cannot live in oxygen. It cannot live on the surface of any human-made or natural materials such as wood, leather, stone, plastic, cloth, glass, ceramic pottery, or paper.

The HIV virus cannot live in the air, nor does it live in saliva. It cannot be transmitted through the use of the same telephone, chair, washcloth, towel, eating utensils, toothbrushes, toilet seat, pillow, or even by sharing the same sandwich. It cannot be eaten and live. It cannot penetrate unbroken skin, nor skin that has a scab. It can enter open, fresh wounds only. It is not a germ, nor a bacteria. It cannot give you an illness.

What it does do, is alter

your body's immune system so the body cannot protect itself against other illnesses. That is why the average length of time a person has the virus, BEFORE any symptoms appear, is 11.8 years. The HIV virus is NOT "catching." It alters the body in such a way that the body becomes susceptible to other illnesses which it would ordinarily overcome. The HIV virus can be transmitted ONLY in the following four ways:

- Through vaginal or seminal fluids during the sexual act.
- Through an exchange of blood with blood, i.e., blood from an infected person is actually introduced into the blood stream of another person. The way this usually happens is through the use of dirty, or contaminated needles when needles are shared between people injecting drugs into their bodies.
- Babies born to mothers carrying the HIV virus.
- There are a few cases of uninfected babies receiving the virus from breast milk from an infected mother.

You can hug, kiss, shake hands, share soda straws, and not have to worry about contracting AIDS. But people who share sexual activity need to protect themselves, and one another, through the use of LATEX condoms

(rubbers) used along with a good spermicide such as nonoxonal 9.

The bad thing about AIDS is the fact it is still incurable. The good thing is that you are totally safe from contacting the virus as long as you do not engage in unprotected sex, nor share an intravenous needle with anyone else. The sad thing is that often HIV-infected people have no idea they have the virus. They may have become infected ten years ago and have no idea they are carrying the virus because their immune systems have not broken down sufficiently to allow them to become ill from some other disease from which the body usually protects itself.

The other issues pertaining to AIDS in the workplace are that of confidentiality, and the issue of discrimination. AIDS victims and HIV carriers have the same rights to medical confidentiality as do victims of any other illness or accident. Medical problems are private matters and confidentiality is a legal right.

The District does not allow discrimination on any grounds, certainly not on the basis of possible or known HIV or AIDS infection. This is medically and ethically correct. It does not make any kind of sense to try to avoid a person who is known to carry the virus, when at the same time we are probably in contact with people who

carry the HIV virus and do not themselves know it. The bottom line is, we cannot contact AIDS in the workplace through any sort of normal, day-to-day, contact. So feel free of worry and concern over this matter, and enjoy normal, working relationships with all of your fellow co-workers.

If you have further doubts or concerns, you might consider calling your friendly EAP counselor, available to you by a telephone call, toll-free to (800) 221-0942 or (714) 978-7915.

Heart Attack

... continued from page 18

smoking if we WOULD. No, not necessarily easily, but if we truly want to and are determined to and seek other ways to handle our stress, we all CAN. So think about it. Maybe you will choose life, long and healthy life, living to your fullest and healthiest, in place of a few outdated habits.

EAP

Help Yourself
Help a Loved One
Call (800) 221-0942

Your Employee
Assistance Program

Maintenance Racks Up the Pins in Grudge Match

On December 9, 1990, the Maintenance and Transportation Departments met at the Little Tokyo Bowl to determine which had the better bowlers and bowling team. The sad news for Transportation was that Maintenance had the best of them with a total of 20,092 pins to Transportation's 19,982.

Billed as a "grudge match," approximately 150 employees including retirees participated. Redeeming the honor of Transportation to some degree, Division 1 Operator Alfonso Alvarado scored as the high total series winner with a total of 581 pins. The high scoring female was Division 18's Dispatcher Alice Gates with 535 total pins.

Alvarado, originally from the Bronx, New York, has been with the District for 16 years. He said he wasn't even planning on bowling that day because he was supposed to coach his son's basketball game. After securing a substitute, Alvarado headed for Little Tokyo, and the rest is history. Modestly, Alvarado commented: "Everybody else bowled worse than me that day. I guess I was just lucky." Alvarado lives with his wife, Rosemarie, and their two children, Travi, 9, and Theresa, 4, in West Covina.

Of the male high scorers, retiree Rocky Stone came in second with 574 total pins. Tied for third place with 550 pins were Frank Alejandro and Terry Kumakura.

High-scorers among the



High team series winners for the Maintenance-Transportation Bowling Tournament were Maintenance's team known as the "Oriental Express" with 2,463 total pins. Members included, front, left to right: Terry Kamakura and Mars Castillejo. Back row, from left to right: Calvin Kunishige, Primo Sumagayray, and Eldon Takahara.

female bowlers included Yolanda Alvarado, who came second with a score of 503. Demetrice Seltzer won third place with 496, and Juanita Howard placed fourth with a score of 484.

"This event brought out families and many retirees," said Transportation Coordinator Emmitt Pippin. "We saw some old friends like Rocky Stone, Josh Peretz, Clarence Wilson, and Jim Jernigan and had a jolly good time. It was a grudge match that turned out to be a fun event," he said.

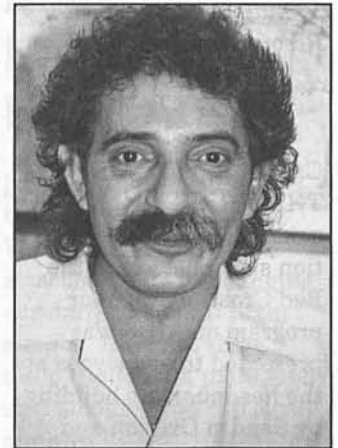
Each team was composed of five members and they bowled three games to determine their overall skill.

Assistant Director of Transportation Ralph Wilson presented trophies to the winners. Ennis Finlay and Lorraine Melendez were selected as most inspirational participants. Elton Ford, bowling coordinator for Equipment

Maintenance was presented a special plaque by TCU for a job well done. The event was sponsored by Employee Activities and both the Transportation and Maintenance Departments donated trophies.

Transportation bowling coordinator Emmitt Pippin said Transportation's excuse for not winning the overall title was that their players couldn't adjust to the synthetic lanes. "They were too slick for us," said Pippin. "Now, Alvarado adjusted and took advantage when he saw an opening. He was very inspirational in cheering everyone else on."

Because of the overwhelming success, Pippin said there have been demands for more bowling parties. "There will be more," said Pippin. "We also want a rematch with Maintenance." The next Transportation-Maintenance Tournament will be held March 17.



High bowling scorer - Division 1's Alfonso Alvarado.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
It is a sad state of mind some people find themselves in, especially those who take time to write a letter to you with such deep thought and insight as "Metro Man."

The letter from "Metro Man" in the November 1990 issue was inspiring and moving. I thank "Metro Man" for reminding all of us that those minds still exist--those who seek heroes of brawn and muscle, defenders of the "old boys" state of mind.

Well, Metro Man, if you look around you will see women doing outstanding work in all job functions at RTD.

Yes! Metro Man, we are out here. And, we know, you just can't see us. He's our man--.

Stephanie Gonzalez
Metro Platform/Operator

Division 15 Hosts Huge Family Christmas Party

'Twas December 14 and all through Division 15 every creature was stirring, both kid and teen.

Streamers and garlands were hung around the trainroom with care

in hope that Santa and hot-steamed tamales would soon be there.

The children were tearing up and around, all energized by RTD red punch while parents bribed them with visions of a visit with Santa.

Mistress of Ceremonies Miriam Pereira and DeeJay Darryl Richardson settled in for a long entertainment program that included readings, singing, guitar playing, and dancing.

In solo, duet, trio, and quartet there arose such a clatter that the audience sprang from their seats to see what was the matter.

When what to their wondering eyes should appear but Michael Ortiz and Maribelle Hooks, Bo



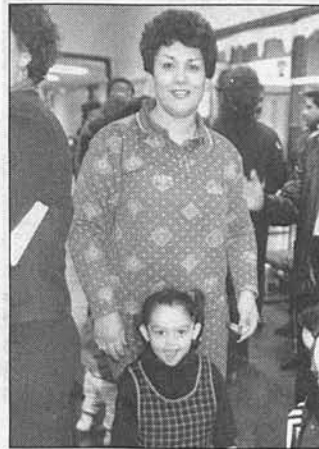
Mistress of Ceremonies Miriam Pereira sings "Come All Ye Faithful" to the hungry crowd.

White and Amor and Christina Graciano, Manuel Del Riego and the Rev. Jackson, Vicki Johnson and Kendra Clayton and Joyce Smith and McGill Hall, Miss Manor and the Sims Family, Shirley Mills and Miss Dunlap, Elvira Hooks and Abraham Mia.

As act after act paraded in front of the Christmas party, including

an offkey rendition of "Twelve Days of Christmas" by Division 15 management, in a twinkling we heard in the locker room the prancing and pawing of each little hoof [Santa was the originator of the first alternate fuels project].

As we swiveled our heads, through the side doors came Santa with a bound. He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot.



TOS Connie Lussier dons her other cap as mother as she waits in line for Santa with her youngest daughter.

His eyes how they twinkled, his dimples how merry

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry.

He had a broad face and a little round panza that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of pozole.

He was so spry and the jolliest of elves

that no one would have known it was Eddie Lopez.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head soon let us know we had nothing to dread.

He spoke a few words

but went straight to his work,

Sitting in the Santa's land he greeted the children and asked them their wishes.

He made his promises to the kids, while mama and papa operators had a chance to wash the dishes [following a Christmas banquet of homemade turkey and yams, tamales, cornbread stuffing, cranberries, salad, and sweet potato pie].



Kimberly Washington whispers her Christmas wish to Santa. Santa's Land was a decorative creation of Kimberly's. Elf Rosa Graciano stands in appreciation of the atmosphere.

Committee members fretted and worried, directed the kiddie traffic and took Santa pictures.

Members included Kimberly Washington, Miriam Pereira, Sandra Ware, Carrie Williams, Brenda Esquivel, Liz Anderson, Bonifacio Horta, Jr., Eddie Lopez, Marietta Butler, Arlene Alvidrez, Rosa Graciano, Yolanda Kennedy, and Tony Sims.



Division 15 management attempted the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Quite badly we might add. The amateur singers included, from left to right: Division Manager Harold Hollis, Sr. TOS Dorothy Fluken, Instructor Rick Lussier, Assistant Manager P.G. Smith, Assistant Manager Sue Harvey, TOS Brenda Esquivel, TOS Ed Hudson, and Steno Gerald Masters.

Christmas carols were sung, by some they were baffled!

The room teeming with people, pandemonium reigned as prizes were raffled.

But Santa pledged he would not leave until the last child was seen.

Stockings were given and candy canes tossed,

then Santa's sack grew quite lean.

Finished with his work he sprang to his sleigh for a pre-trip inspection

and away he went in his express line connection.

But we heard him exclaim as if in consolation

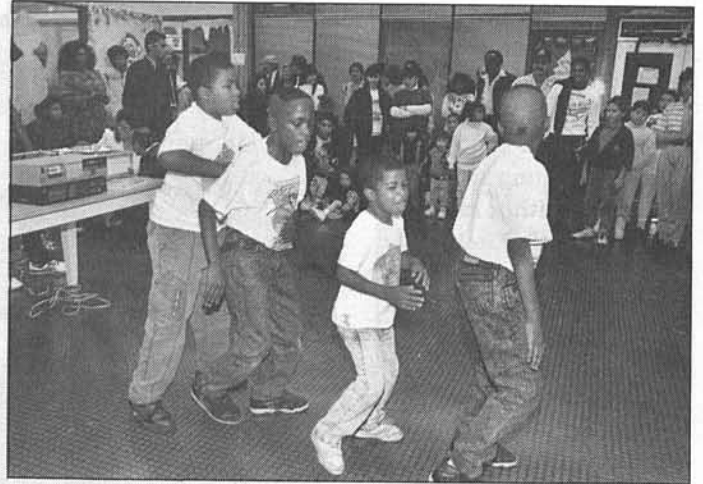
"May 1991 bring you no missout or cancellation!"



Adding a taste of the classical, Manuel Del Riego performed with his son Manuel. DeeJay Darryl Richardson helped out as the mike stand.



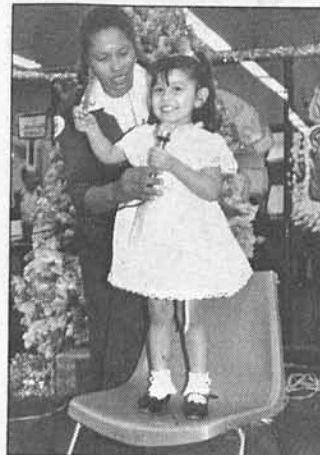
Santa Claus (Eddie Lopez) and his elves (Rosa Graciano, left, and Arlene Alvidrez, right) interviewed these two lads to find out whether they'd been naughty or nice during 1990.



Operator Clark Sims' sons performed their own choreographed dance number as a Christmas treat.



Division Operators serve up the freshest and best-darn homecooked Christmas meal. From left to right, Yolanda Kennedy, Carrie Williams, and Wesley Cain.



Operator Cora Jones holds the microphone for young songstress Maribelle Hooks.

All-Maintenance Christmas Party Kicks Off Season



MC Mike Bujosa begins the festivities by wishing everyone a "bon appetit."

and Non-Contract. Assistant Director of Equipment Maintenance Tony Chavira and CMF Superintendent Ken Miller and their wives attended. Union leaders included TCU's Art Garlick and his wife, Marcella, and retired ATU President Jerry Long.

The organizing committee was composed of Yolanda Perez, Annie Zavala, Oscar Gamboa, Alex DiNuzzo, Mike Bujosa, and Maggie Cook.



Checking over 200 guests into the ballroom is simple if you're organized said planners (from left to right): Yolanda Perez, Alex DiNuzzo, and Annie Zavala.

Approximately 200 Maintenance employees attended the department Christmas party held December 1, 1990 at the Radisson Hotel in Commerce.

Mechanic A Mike Bujosa and Oscar Gamboa were masters of ceremony for the sit-down dinner and dance that included a raffle with prizes like all-expense paid trips to Las Vegas.

Music was provided by deejays George Ponte and Jimmy Nunez. CMF Mechanic A Javier Castro opened up shop as the court photographer and took photos of couples desiring visual memories of the evening.

Mike Bujosa said he and a group of Maintenance staff thought it would be better to pool resources and unite for one big party instead of several small ones. "We just thought it would be nice to see everyone in Maintenance," he said. Not only was the party open to ATU members, but also to UTU, TCU,



TCU Recording Secretary Maggie Cook was asked to pick a good one during the drawing held for the free trips to Las Vegas. That gallant gentleman Oscar Gamboa held the ticket stub can for her as she drew while Mike Bujosa looked on and hoped she drew his.

CMF Superintendent Ken Miller (second from left) and his wife joined Assistant Director of Maintenance Tony Chavira and his wife Gail at the Maintenance Christmas Party.



BIRTHS



Born to Division 15 Operator Derick L. Rucker and his wife, Amor, a beautiful baby girl, Olivia on November 1, 1990. Olivia weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20.5 inches

long at birth. "She was born at 2:30 a.m., right after Halloween," said Rucker. "Glad of that!"

Born to Messenger Clerk Laura Ayala and her husband, Richard, a son, Eric Samuel on October 1, 1990 at 12:38 p.m. in Artesia. Eric weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19-1/2 inches at birth. Laura has been with the District for 6-1/2 years. Eric is the Ayala's first child, but he is the fifth grandchild of Sylvia Jackson, an RTD Customer Relations Department employee with 28 years' service.



Born to Human Resources Analyst Paul Lonquich and his wife Vicki, a son, Blake Patrick, on December 30, 1990. Blake weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 oz. and was 20

inches long. Dad said he was grateful to Blake's timing, it gave him another deduction in the tax year of 1990. Blake is their second child.



RETIREMENT DECISIONS: It's Your Money, So Know Your Choices

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- Should I go with the company plan, or take my money in a lump sum distribution?
- What are some safe investment choices for my money?
- How can I guarantee the return on my retirement money?



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Carl Jones, retired operator, with his wife Sarah.

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When: Tuesday February 12, 1991 5:30 PM

Where: Holiday Inn
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(Roscoe Exit off the 405)

When: Wednesday February 20, 1991 7:30

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P.S. Of course the seminar is free.

Baby Shower

The party took on an added significance--Mommy-to-be Nadine Triche-Williams was the first Dispatch Center Dispatcher to become pregnant. The former Telephone Information Supervisor joined the Dispatch Center in February 1990.

She and her husband, Alonzo Williams, a Telephone Information Supervisor, were given a baby shower on November 30, 1990. It was a joint effort by staff of the two departments. Nadine has been with the District since 1979. The new family makes their home in Valinda.



Alonzo and Nadine Triche-Williams at their baby shower held in the OCS Section in the Headquarters Building.

Marathon Runners!

Don't forget to call your time and place in the race into the *Headway* for publication in April. Also, runner Rich Lopez requests that all RTD runners meet him in front of the Kentucky Fried Chicken on Figueroa by the Coliseum before the race on Marathon Day, March 3.



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or March 11, 1991

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Length of Seminar: One hour

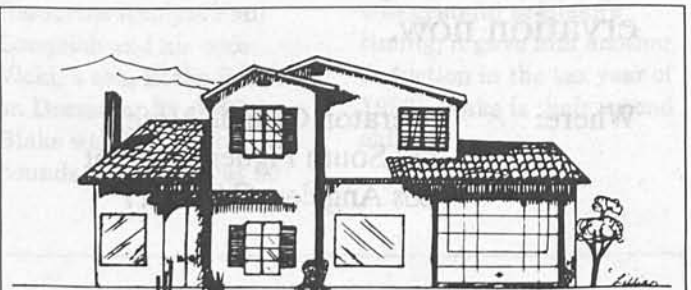
Place: Ketchum Downtown YMCA
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Seminars are one hour in length, are held every second Monday of the month, and cover the important decisions you will have to face regarding your retirement from the RTD. We strongly recommend that both you and your spouse attend. Please call ahead to reserve a space at the Seminar and for directions. The Seminar is free, there is no obligation.



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Wedding

February is American Heart Month

Because it's the month that includes Valentine's Day, February is a good time to celebrate heart health. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) suggest that you mark the month with hearty gift-giving. Give your loved one not chocolates but the push to add years to life with exercise apparel or equipment, a health club membership, or a healthy cooking class or cookbook. Give yourself new direction, too: Quit smoking, watch your fat intake, and start a regular exercise program. Here are other tips from NIH to reduce your risk of disability and death from heart disease, lung disease, and stroke.

Division 15 Instructor Dormin Jones was married December 31, 1990 (New Year's Eve) to Barbara Boyd in Las Vegas at the Riviera Hotel. Jones' son was his best man while his wife's daughter, Jocelyn Boyd, was a witness. "Actually it was through Jocelyn that I met my wife.

Jocelyn was one of my students. She kept telling me that I'd be perfect for her mother. So, she introduced us." The newlyweds took it from there. Jones has been with the RTD for 19 years and is currently a member of the CHP hit team.


About the Cover

This month's cover is taken from an original watercolor done by Indonesian-born Dutch artist Frits W. Godin. It was his entry in a Rail Art competition sponsored by the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission depicting the life and culture surrounding MacArthur Park, near the site of the Westlake/Alvarado Red Line Metro Station.

Godin commented that he had not been to the area in some 20 years and was greatly surprised by the changes in the colorful neighborhood when he went to snap photographs for inspiration of his creation. A neighborhood in transition, it is expected that Westlake/Alvarado will undergo considerable redevelopment to coincide with the opening of the Red Line Metro Station in 1993.

When Godin paints street scenes of Los Angeles, particularly public transportation, he feels he must integrate any subway system with above-ground busways. "The trains are not a single entity in itself, but are related to other transportation units; thus the RTD bus in my painting."

Born in Indonesia in 1917 when it was a colony of the Netherlands, Godin believes his paintings reflect his Southeast Asian roots. "I paint the panorama and objects as they are with deep low-key colors of the tropical atmosphere," he said. He classifies his style as realism and says his motto is "to paint what the public likes, not the trend of a certain era." Other subjects include figurative, western, landscapes, and seascapes from the West to the Far East.



American Heart Association

Cream of Broccoli Soup

This is a delicious soup either hot or cold. You can top each serving with a spoonful of low-fat sour cream and chopped chives, dill, or parsley.

1 large onion, coarsely chopped	1/4 c. uncooked rice
1 medium carrot, sliced	3 c. coarsely chopped broccoli
1 small stalk celery (with leaves), sliced	2 c. low-fat milk
1 clove garlic, finely chopped	1 tsp. salt
3 c. chicken stock	pinch cayenne pepper

In a large saucepan, combine onion, carrot, celery, garlic, and chicken stock; bring to a boil. Add rice, cover and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until rice is tender. Add broccoli; cover and simmer until broccoli is tender, about 5 minutes. Transfer to blender or food processor and puree (may be done in batches). Return to saucepan; add milk, salt, and cayenne. Serve hot. Alternatively, let cool, cover and refrigerate until serving time.

Yield: 8 servings (3/4 c. each).

Vegetable Tip: Broccoli is an excellent source of vitamins A and C and of fiber. It's also a cruciferous vegetable, and people whose diets frequently include cruciferous vegetables have been shown to have a lower risk of colon cancer. Other vegetables in this family are cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, rutabaga, kale, and turnips.

Recipes are from THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY COOKBOOK Copyright 1988 by Anne Lindsay. Reprinted by permission of William Morrow and Company, Inc.

Cream of Broccoli Soup
Nutritional Analysis per Serving

Calories: 70	Fiber: Good
Grams Fat: 1.8	Vitamins A and C: Excellent

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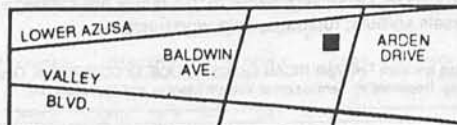
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RECREATION NEWS



Events

February

- Disneyland - Jan. 12 through Mar. 3 (under 3 yrs free) \$17.75
- 12 Kings vs. Calgary \$17.00
- 17 Lakers vs. Portland \$12.00
- 23 Jerome Robbins "Broadway" Closing performance - Shubert Theatre 2:00 P.M. Matinee \$50.50

March

- 2 Kings vs. Winnipeg - \$18.50
- 14 Kings vs. Chicago - \$16.50
- 16 & 17 Phantom of the Opera - Ahmanson Theatre 2:30 p.m. Matinee \$50.50
- 17 Lakers vs. San Antonio - \$12.00
- 24 Wrestlemania - Coliseum 4:00 P.M. \$50.50 and \$25.50 Seats
- 26 Kings vs. Edmonton \$16.50
- 29 Lakers vs. Portland 7:30 P.M. \$12.00

- Entertainment '91 books for West L.A., Long Beach/South Bay, and San Fernando. Discounts for restaurants, hotels, movies, special events and more \$35.00

- Grandma's fruit cakes #1, 2, 3, and 5 lb. specials.

- A wide assortment of Bulova and Seiko dress watches at 40% off retail.

- Gold earrings and chains in a limited supply.

- Stuffed animals of all types 40 to 50% off retail prices (This includes Disney stuffed animals)

- And of course all the RTD and Metro Rail logo merchandise.

- Year-round tickets available for Universal Studios for \$18.50 Adults and \$14.50 Child

- Year-round tickets also available for Sea World at \$16.25 Adults and \$12.25 Child

- Tickets for movie theatres are as follows: Edwards \$4.25; AVCO General Cinema \$4.00, Manns \$4.00, AMC \$4.00, Pacific Walk-In \$4.00, Pacific Drive-In \$4.50.

The Employee Activities office is open from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Second floor of the Headquarters building, telephone 972-4740.

Mobile Unit Schedule

Due to popular demand the mobile center has expanded its days of services and operating hours. The center will operate Monday through Friday from 9:30 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

These new hours will provide more employees the opportunity to use the services of Employees Activities.

Feb.	Location
1	1
4	Maintenance Day
5	9
6	16
7	8
8	10
11	CMF
12	3
13	15
14	6
15	7
18	5
19	18
20	4
21	12
22	2
25	11
26	1
27	10
28	CMF

USE OR ABUSE?

Diagnosing Dependency

Dependence on alcohol or other drugs is a widespread problem. Many times, people don't recognize it. Chemical dependency is simply the inability to control the use of some physical substance—not being able to quit, and not being able to limit how much is used. If you have a dependency problem, recognizing it can help you to move towards a happier and healthier life.

Neglecting responsibilities can be a symptom of chemical dependency.



Myths

You might think of a chemically dependent person as someone who can't live without their drink or drugs, who is often drunk or stoned, who uses every day, or is irresponsible, immoral, weak-willed or even evil. The fact is, a person can be chemically dependent without showing such obvious signs, and dependency can cause serious problems in a person's life. We are gradually beginning to realize that a person's genetic make-up may affect his or her chances of becoming dependent, and that dependency is often a physical condition that cannot be cured by willpower alone.

Symptoms Of Dependency

Here are some signs that might indicate a chemical dependency problem in you or someone you love:

- Trying to cut down or to quit using some substance, and failing at it.
- "Blackouts," or lapses of memory, after use.
- Using the substance while alone, or hiding the evidence of use.

- Using the substance to forget about problems or worries.
- Doing things while "under the influence" that cause regret afterwards.
- Not being able to enjoy an event without the substance.
- Using much more than other people in a social gathering.
- Neglecting responsibilities in order to use the substance.
- Family, friends, or employer expressing concern about substance use.
- Being willing to do almost anything to get the substance.
- Financial or legal problems from using the substance.

Problems Caused By Dependency

Chemically dependent people often act unwisely or inappropriately while under the influence of their drug. They may act in ways that will embarrass them later, such as by telling dirty jokes at a party. They may endanger their health and lives, and the lives of others, by having unsafe sex, or by driving while intoxicated. They may lose their jobs or families as people

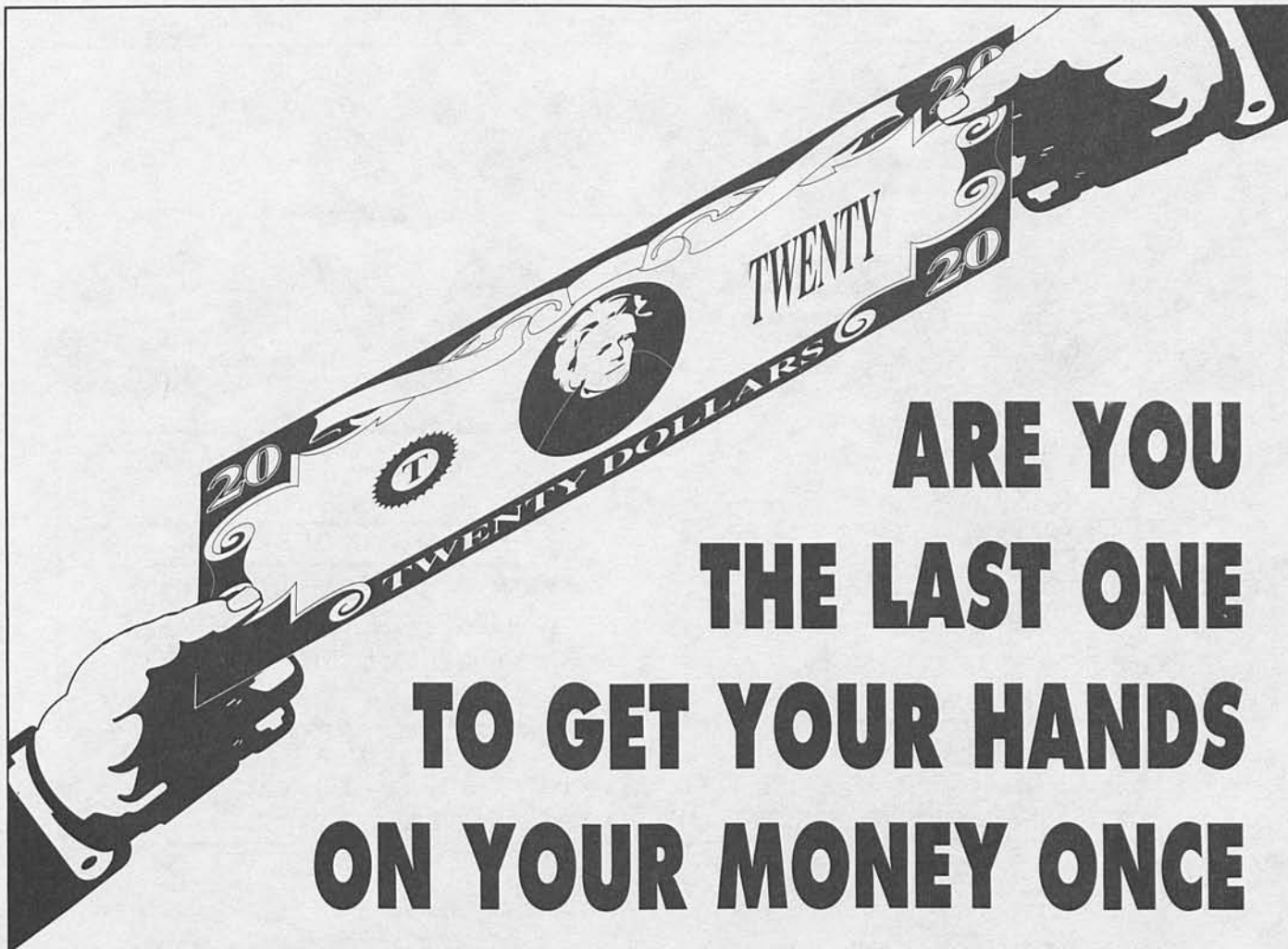
around them are hurt by their actions.

What To Do

Recognizing that there is a problem is the first step towards recovering from chemical dependency. If you think you might have a problem of this type, here are some steps you can take:

- Acknowledge the problem openly.
- Limit time spent with people who encourage drug use, or who believe that dependency is a problem of weak will.
- Seek professional help from doctors or therapists who deal with chemical dependency and recovery. You might benefit from counseling or a recovery program at a hospital or private clinic.
- Seek out the support of people who are recovering themselves. Many 12-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous are available for various types of dependencies. Your employee assistance program can help you find these and other helpful resources.

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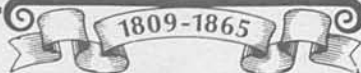
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