

STRIKE STORIES



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We all know a strike is not a good thing. But there is the opportunity to learn new skills. In my case, this strike and the 1994 strike proved interesting experiences.

In '94 after a month's training, I drove a bus on the Pacoima to Westwood route. I had never driven a bus and I found the experience enhanced my understanding of Operations.

This year, I experienced day shifts on the Maintenance side for Divisions 8 and 15. Aside from turning on and off all the buses each day, I replaced seat inserts and window guards. Within Quality Assurance where I work, we have discussed how this could be expanded.

I remember several positive actions from striking employees. This year I observed them checking their watches to ensure that waiting vehicles were not unreasonably delayed.

The '94 strike left more memorable experiences in crossing a picket line. I will never forget my first day as a bus operator.

That first morning we temporary bus drivers lined up to exit the division as striking employees engaged in frenzied picket line. I will always remember two comments made to me as I waited to drive across the picket line. One employee was a shop steward who recognized me and one an employee who did not know me.

The shop steward told me to take it easy and to drive the bus safely. The other employee told me to not let the passengers upset me and to be careful in driving the bus.

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