

STRIKE STORIES



By Rick Noone

Engineer

Construction Management

I was hired by MTA in July and was unaware that a labor dispute was brewing. As a new employee, I wanted to create a positive image, so when management put me on a roster for strike duty, I served without objection.

My assignment was the graveyard shift at Division 5. The round-trip from home was 120 miles and this nocturnal journey quickly grew old; by the end of the first week I was experiencing "buyer's remorse."

My strike duty was limited to answering the phone in the maintenance shop and I was the only person in the building. How boring! And lonely! Typically, around 11:45 p.m., Gateway would call to verify that all was well. I began to look forward to that call.

The nights passed very slowly! In Week 3, some excitement occurred when gun fire erupted during a robbery attempt down the street. Happily, no injuries were reported.

When I returned home that morning, there was a phone message that someone would replace me on the graveyard shift and I should report for work at my usual time and place the next Monday. This ordeal would soon end. Thank God!!

A positive aspect of this experience was my observation that Division 5 management and labor recognized that harmony during this difficult period should be maintained. There was mutual cooperation and respect. The union maintained an orderly picket line and management accommodated the pickets with access to drinking water and restroom facilities - "win - win" behavior.

[Back to 'Strike Stories'](#)