
On the Job: Never a Dull Day for Sheriff's Deputies

(Jan. 16, 2002) Funny, touching or surprising – rarely does a law enforcement officer's day go by without a tale to tell. Three examples from the files of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau:



Deputies Shawn Moreno and Brian Moreno were on vandalism patrol, recently, at the Metro Green Line Marine Avenue station in Redondo Beach when they learned that taggers were spray painting a wall just around the corner from where they stood.

^ These lookalike Sheriff's deputies often draw surprised reactions from perps who run afoul of the law. From left are Shawn (we think) and Brian Moreno.

Hoping to catch the vandals at work, one deputy went one way around the block, while his partner went the other.

As Deputy Shawn Moreno approached, the two teenage suspects turned and ran in the opposite direction – straight into the arms of Deputy Brian Moreno.

The boys' jaws dropped as they looked from one deputy to the other. They weren't seeing double – they had just been apprehended by twin brothers.

Metro Bus Operator Robert Brown often noticed an elderly Korean woman at a Korea-town bus stop, but was surprised one day when she stepped aboard his bus. She seemed confused and he tried to question her, but she didn't speak English.

The woman remained seated on Brown's Line 207 bus all the way through South Central LA to his layover at the Rail Operations Center. There, Brown asked Deputy Alonzo Payne to help his elderly passenger.

Payne contacted Hollywood Sheriff's Station Deputy Sung Pak, who was able to learn, through speaking with the woman and others, that she is an 80-year-old Alzheimer's patient who had become confused and boarded the wrong bus. Through the teamwork of the MTA and LASD, the woman was returned safely to her home.

Deputy Matt Scoville was on plainclothes duty recently at the 7th and Metro station. As he watched, a man leaned a bicycle against a wall and walked away. A second man, who was talking on a payphone, abruptly hung up, grabbed the bike, and started to board a departing train.

Scoville and the surprised bike owner confronted the suspect, who was quickly arrested. But the disgruntled suspect had a parting shot. "If you would lock it up," he told the biker, "I wouldn't steal it!"

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