

## He's No. 2 in Seniority at MTA



PHOTO BY VICTORIA WOODS

### Metro Bus Operator Jack Bailey

By VICTORIA WOODS

(Sept. 18 2002) He is known as the "second man in charge" at South Bay Division 18.

He's Metro Bus Operator Jack Bailey, a 43-year MTA veteran who is second in seniority as a bus operator only to his Division 18 colleague, Operator Donald Dube.

Dube's original hire date is Nov. 11, 1958. Bailey's is July 6, 1959. Coming up third in seniority is Operator Sterling Hampton of Arthur Winston Division 5, who was hired June 9, 1960, and now has 42 years' service.

A mentor/line instructor, Bailey is well known and admired by his co-workers. He has worked in numerous divisions, was an acting TOS for three years in the late 1980s and was nominated for Operator of the Year in 1990. And he enjoys his job.

Not only is Bailey known as the second man in charge, he also is known as the motorcycle man.

He rides to work and on the weekends often rides to Santa Monica or to Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mountains. He also has ridden to Yosemite, where he spent a week, and to Oregon, where he stayed for eight days.

Jack Bailey doesn't ride alone; he rides with his retired friend, Pate Ernest. They began riding about 10 years ago and Bailey says, "Pate and I have been up every winding road you can imagine."

Does Bailey plan to retire soon? "I enjoy

being at work," he says. "I also enjoy the riders who board my bus. Although I could retire, I prefer to work."

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