

Division 1 Mechanic Mack Evans Stands the Test of Time

By DAVID HERSHENSON

(Jan. 31, 2003) When Mack Evans began his career as a mechanic at MTA (then SCRTD) he didn't own a cell phone – they hadn't been invented yet.

In fact, there were more rotary dial phones in homes than touch tone phones, there was no such thing as a 310 or 562 or 818 area code, and telephone answering machines were just finding their way into homes.

The year was 1967 and LBJ was president, The Beatles' *Lonely Hearts Club Band* album lost out to Frank Sinatra for the Grammy award, and *Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Graduate* and *Cool Hand Luke* were debuting in movie theaters across the country (but not in multiplexes, because there were none).

Evans served nine years in the U.S. Army, earning a mechanic's certification from the Fort Knox Armor School in Kentucky and serving in Germany.

At the end of his enlistment, he interviewed for a mechanic position at Central City Division 1 and was hired three days later. He has been there ever since.

Evans now has the second highest seniority at MTA, behind the legendary 95 year-old service attendant lead Arthur Winston. He has replaced or repaired more than 3,000 transmissions during his stint at Division 1. He has no plans on leaving any time soon.

He's sticking with it!

"I've loved my job from day one, that's why I'm still here," Evans said. "As long as my health holds up, I intend to be around for a while longer."

Evans has seen a lot of changes since he began working at Division 1. When he first started there were no hydraulic lifts at the division, no air conditioning and no automatic transmissions. Although he has progressed from a driving a '63 Chevy Impala to a Corvette, Evans still takes the bus to work every day.

Division 1 Maintenance Manager Bob Hogancamp marvels at the work Evans does.

"Mack is one of the most stable and steady mechanics we have," says Hogancamp. "You don't ever have to go looking for him – he's always working on something."

Evans rarely misses a day of work and has accumulated around 2,000



PHOTO: LISA HUYNH

35 years and counting, Central City Division Mechanic Mack Evans holds the second highest seniority at MTA, surpassed only by the legendary 95-year-old service attendant lead Arthur Winston. Below, Evans at work.



PHOTO: DAVE HERSHENSON

sick hours, not including the hundreds of hours he has donated to fellow employees in need over the years.

Even though he has seen a lot of changes in his 35-plus years at Division 1, most people say he's the same friendly and dependable guy, today, as when they met him – and he still doesn't own a cell phone.

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