

Lost Purse and \$1,300 is Returned to Thankful Passenger

By JENNIFER YEH

(Feb. 4, 2003) A Metro Bus passenger, in Los Angeles on a business trip from Mexico, was more than grateful to MTA, Jan. 30, when her lost purse – with nearly \$1,300, a passport and a plane ticket inside – was recovered by an alert operator.



Metro Bus Operator Gregory Scott

Irma Galvan left her purse on the Line 42 bus from LAX when she helped another passenger burdened with packages get off the bus. After disembarking, she realized she had left her purse behind.

Not long afterward, at Terminal 31 opposite MTA headquarters, Gateway Division 10 Operator Gregory Scott was at the end of his shift.

Checking through his bus, Scott found the purse on one of the side seats. He followed procedures by calling his radio dispatcher to report what he had found.

Tried to notify the woman

Transportation Operations Supervisor Frances Alford picked up the purse from Scott and took it to Division 10. Alford and Assistant Transportation Manager Liz Estany tried to notify the woman to let her know her purse had been found.

"We called the hotel that was listed on her plane ticket," says Estany. "I also called Air Mexico and they called her contact number in Mexico."

"Instead of us finding her, she found us," says Alford. "Somehow she got a hold of the bus dispatcher and they called us."

Estany, along with Transportation Manager Tom Jasmin, returned the purse to Galvan.

"She was so happy she wanted to know how much was the reward was for finding her purse," says Estany. "I told her that we don't need a reward and to just enjoy her stay in Los Angeles."

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