

Undercurrent of Activity at 'Deserted' Operating Divisions

By FRANKLIN A. HOLMAN

(Oct. 22, 2003) Divisions seem abandoned without the busyness of buses and scurrying employees, but among seemingly deserted grounds are dedicated workers who are keeping the divisions alive and healthy.

Throughout the divisions, transportation managers and non-contract employees are busy marking the boards so that operators' schedules are ready the minute the strike comes to an end.

The buses and trains are fired up daily and kept clean so they will be in top shape when the union workers come back to their jobs. To further protect buses and equipment, regular surveillance of the bus yards takes place day and night.

Backed-up paperwork and filing are being done and stock rooms are being cleaned out. Employees have been keeping busy catching up on data input and records. They also are doing the mopping, trash pickup and other janitorial requirements around the division.

"It's been a team effort to keep the facility clean," says Central City Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonja Owens.

From time to time during the day, employees and managers talk to the picketers and make sure that they have water, access to restrooms and some shade, when possible.

"I talk to the strikers every day," Owens says. "I want to keep open and honest communication with them."

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