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71 Years at Metro...

Just Another Day for Arthur Winston

- Hale and hardy at 98, the man feels 'real good'

By RICH MORALLO and
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(Jan. 25, 2005) Arthur Winston woke up Monday at the usual time – 4 a.m. He breakfasted on Malt-O-Meal, eggs and bacon.

Then, the spry 98-year-old drove his 1994 Toyota sedan to work at the only Metro bus operating facility named after an individual – Arthur Winston Division 5 in Chesterfield Square.

"I don't feel different, today, but I do feel real good," smiled Winston. It was his 71st anniversary at Metro.

As a lead service attendant with a crew of 12, he spent the day cleaning and sending a fleet of 240 spotless buses onto city streets.

A remarkable 71 years

Arthur Winston was 28 years old when he started his remarkable 71 years of continuous work at Metro.

Originally from Okemie, Okla., he and his family moved to Los Angeles in 1918, when Arthur was 12. His father found work in the maintenance department for one of Metro's predecessors, the Pacific Electric Railway Company.

Actually, Winston has worked a total of 76 years for the transit agency if you want to count the five years he spent, beginning at age 15, helping his father at the railroad company. Starting in 1921, he stayed five years before quitting in 1926.

"I had met this young lady, and made plans to marry and move to St. Louis," he explained.

But, Winston and his wife, Frances, never made the move, so he returned to Metro on Jan. 24, 1934 and has stayed with the agency since.



Lead Service Attendant Arthur Winston takes a break from the work day for this photo taken on Jan. 18. He will celebrate his 99th birthday on March 22.

'Employee of the Century'

Cited by former President Clinton in 1997 as "Employee of the Century," and honored last year in Sacramento by the California legislature, Winston missed work only once in the past 71 years when his wife died in 1988.

"I stayed with Metro through all these years because I felt comfortable here," said Winston, adding, "after a certain age I decided to stay on the job 'til I'm 100 years old."

Winston turns 99 on March 22, and has announced his retirement in 2006, when he turns 100 years old.

But, on Monday, Winston's after-work plans on his 71st Metro anniversary were simple.

"I'm passing by a local restaurant to dine on greens and pigs feet," he said.

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