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San Gabriel Valley
General Manager
Jack Gabig presents
a Certificate of
Appreciation to
Division 9 Operator
Gilberto Vazquez.

Division 9 Operator Gilberto Vazquez Helps Catch Tagger

By MIKE GREENWOOD

(March 8, 2005) San Gabriel Valley Division 9 Operator Gilberto Vazquez was finishing up his last morning trip on Line 70, Feb. 11, when he noticed several teenagers who seemed to be up to something in the back of his bus.

After alighting the last of his passengers at El Monte Station, one of his regular riders alerted him to the problem. The two juveniles had been tagging inside the bus.

Vazquez approached a deputy at the nearby Sheriff's Substation and the chase was on.

Deputy Tom Rodriguez and Vazquez drove through the neighborhood in the squad car looking for the juveniles. They backtracked down Santa Anita Avenue with no luck.

Classroom by classroom

Then the men went to the local continuation high school and checked classroom by classroom. Finally, Vazquez recognized one of the boys.

Before long, the tagger admitted responsibility for the vandalism – later estimated at \$7,600 in damage – and apologized to the operator. The suspect was photographed and charged.

Without the immediate attention and cooperation of the bus operator, says Rodriguez, the suspects would not have been apprehended.

Sector General Manager Jack Gabig last week presented a commendation to Vazquez, thanking the operator for his alertness and cooperation with law enforcement in locating the suspect.

