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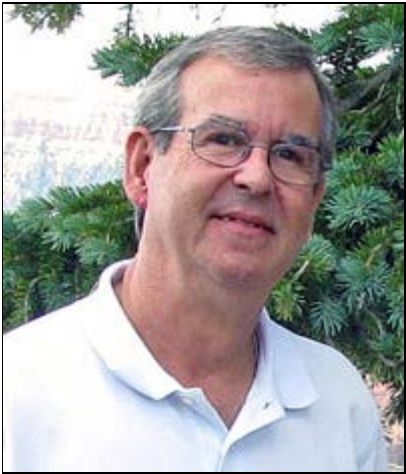
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OBITUARIES



Steve Parry, 20-year veteran of RTD and former director of operations and scheduling, was the lead planner for RTD bus service during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy of Jean Keefe Parry.

Former Metro Employee Stephen T. Parry, 59, Loved Buses, Working in Transportation

(Dec. 3, 2009) A memorial service will be held in January for Stephen T. Parry, 59, a retired 21-year Metro employee, who died Nov. 29 following complications from a hemorrhagic stroke.

Born on June 28, 1950, Mr. Parry left Metro in 1994 after serving as Director of Scheduling and Operations and, previously, as planning manager. He was hired on Aug. 2, 1973.

Below are excerpts from an obituary submitted by his widow, Jean Keefe Parry, which details Mr. Parry's extensive transportation career that included his planning, management and coordination

of bus service during the 1984 Olympics.

Husband, brother, transportation planner, and provider of wit, kindness, laughter, martinis and music to many friends and family members, died November 29 at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara.

For reasons which still befuddle closest family members and friends, Steve became utterly fascinated, indeed obsessed with buses, their routes and schedules. As a kid, he began collecting Dinky Toy transit buses and set up stations on the floors all over his house. According to brother and best pal, John (Parry), he made up schedules and taped destination signs over the front windows of those buses. This fascination did not end with childhood.

When he went to Occidental College, he designed their two-line Bengal Bus system, still operating today and his legacy, that included a small fleet of VW buses which, according to the November 18, 1970 article in the *Pasadena Star-News*, "...made weekly runs to UCLA and USC libraries, and regular Friday runs to Pasadena for shopping and Hollywood and the Sunset Strip for entertainment. The service is free to all students."

In 1973 he was awarded a Thomas Watson Fellowship to study transportation systems around the world. It was one of the best years of his life. Not only could he travel and indulge in his other passion for architecture, he also was able to collect transit information which he kept both physically - and mentally. His travels in later years to places such as

Istanbul, Basel, Lisbon, Milan and Madrid always included a careful review of how their transit systems were designed. In Santa Barbara, the mere sound of a train whistle prompted Steve to gaze at his watch and comment "The Starliner is five minutes late."

After graduation from "Oxy" in 1972 with a BA in English, the former student body president took a job as a transportation planner with what was then the RTD now Metro in L.A. While working there, he received a Masters in Public Administration from Pepperdine University. Throughout his career he served on numerous American Public Transit Committees.

One of his proudest accomplishments was his plan for the bus service for the 1984 Olympics. A proclamation from the City of Los Angeles signed by all the supervisors congratulated him for his two year planning effort in "...making transportation during the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles one of the most successful *non*-Olympic events."

In 1995, Steve and his wife, Jean, moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where Steve worked at AC Transit in Oakland for five years. In 2001, they re-located to Santa Barbara where he was employed with CHK America, a British owned provider of nationwide transit information. This job put him back in touch with a number of his former RTD colleagues which was a source of delight and pride to him. He volunteered for the Pearl Chase Society, another architectural preservation organization adding shuttle bus routes and "tinkling the ivories" for their home tours.

Steve is survived by his wife, Jean Keefe Parry, his brother, John Parry of Olympia, Washington and his sister-in-law, Sandy. A celebration of Steve's life will be planned for early 2010.

In lieu of flowers, which cats Jake and Ellwood would relish then summarily "reject," the family suggests that donations be made in his name to: Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, L.A. CA. 90041, Office of Annual Giving, *In Memory of Stephen Parry*; or, The Music Academy of the West, 1070 Fairway Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 Attn. Full Scholarship Program; or, to a charity of your choice.

In Steve's memory, keep a song in your heart!

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