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Photo by Eric Rapp

From left, Division 8 operators Roldan Guingao, Bablu Singh, Richard Jajja and Phillip Cegielski await the Indian Harvest Festival Meal prepared by Operator Prakash Bhamidi, foreground (seated).

West Valley Division 8 Celebrates Indian Harvest Festival

By ERIC RAPP

(May 5, 2005) West Valley Division 8's bus operators of Indian heritage held a feast in April to celebrate Vaisakhi, the Indian Harvest Festival and New Year.

The division's "Desiboyz Club," made up of Indian operators, cooked traditional foods for employees.

Delicacies included pakoras, a fried vegetable dumpling, and kaas malai, a sweet dessert.

Many Indians, especially Sikhs, hold Vaishaki to be the most important date in the calendar. Many celebrate it twice yearly — in April and November.

The holiday commemorates the founding of two religious orders, one in 1699 and another in 1875. It also marks the date when an important religious figure, Guru Arjan Das, was martyred.