



76-6

Emblem

DECEMBER, 1958

Merry
Christmas



Greetings from Chm. Miller, Mr.
Merritt

Christmas with Employees

Our Mind-Readers: Information-PAX Girls

On Our First Christmas

Greetings

From Our Chairman



A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year to you and your family!

It is a privilege to extend, on behalf of all my fellow members of the Authority, greetings of the season to each one of you as we approach our first Christmas together under the emblem of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, bold new venture in transit on the Pacific Coast.

My sincere thanks to all of you for your cooperation in making it possible for us to carry on the adventure. Continued cooperation of the excellent quality manifested to date will go far to insure our future.

May all happiness attend you and yours now and throughout the coming year!

CARL P. MILLER

Carl P. Miller

Together at MTA

Best Wishes

From Our Executive Director



THIS IS OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS as co-workers in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority. I want to wish for every one of you, and for all your families, the happiest Christmas and a fine New Year!

For all of us our relationship this past year has been a new experience. To all of you I want to express my great appreciation for loyalty in a new kind of job well done. At this Christmas time we are rendering public service in our jobs and that is the year-round spirit of Christmas.

For this fine spirit of loyalty and good will I thank each of you. Let us go on together during the coming year, each in his own way, giving better service to make this Transit Authority an outstanding success.

Merry Christmas to all of you and your families.

RALPH P. MERRITT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph P. Merritt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Christmas Time of



Marilyn Jarvis

ALMOST EVERYONE enjoys a holiday. It gives us the opportunity to relax or otherwise to escape, at least momentarily, from our patterns of everyday life. But of all the holidays Christmas, somehow, is a little different. There is something special about it.

Christmas is traditionally a time for family gatherings. Even people who don't get along too well during the rest of the year seem to set aside their differences during the Yuletide when friends and relatives journey — often many miles — to someone's home for a Christmas get-together. And the task of preparing for many house- or dinner-guests seems to be less bothersome than at other times.

A feeling of well-being and good-will develops, as we direct our thoughts and efforts toward giving and doing for others. Christmas is more than a holiday; it is a feeling — an attitude. It is a time for friendship, and for being, and sharing, with friends.

How will you spend Christmas? Most people, including MTA employees, probably will celebrate it with relatives and friends.



"Sandy" Saunders

Marilyn Jarvis, Mail Room Sorter Clerk, and her husband will have a double celebration: Christmas Eve with her parents in Van Nuys, and Christmas Day with her in-laws in Glendale.

Marilyn's father, incidentally, is Don Bailey, an MTA operator at Division 8. Her father-in-law is a retired Pacific Electric Supervisor, while a brother-in-law presently works at the PE freight station on Santa Monica Blvd.



Julia Mendoza

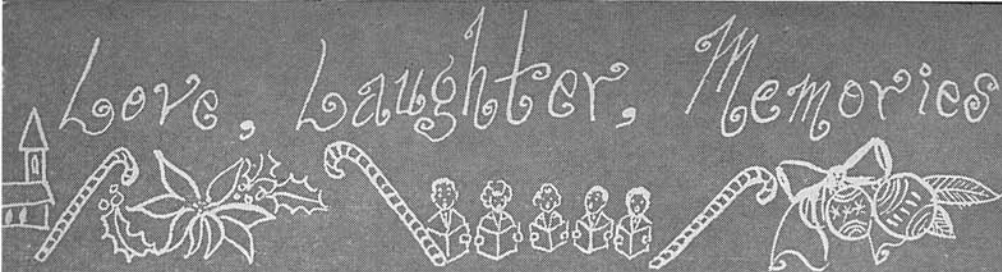
A. L. ("Pat") Patterson, Accounting Tab Operator, will also spend the holidays with relatives. But he'll travel quite a few miles to do so. His family is in Kansas, and "Pat" hasn't been back there for four years. Also returning home for the occasion are his three sisters and two brothers. This year will be the first since 1950 that the entire family will have been together for Christmas. And, in addition to the immediate family, there will be several in-laws whom Pat hasn't yet seen.

Leonard Goericke, Division 21 Operator, recalls many past Christmases when he hosted several friends who were unable to celebrate Christmas with their own families. He and his



Robert L. Fairfax

Love, Laughter, Memories



wife plan a quieter Noel this year with their daughter and two grandchildren.

Traffic Man Wilbur ("Sandy") Saunders of Division 21 will spend the pre-Christmas weekend with relatives. He, his wife Helene, and their son Larry will enjoy a large family reunion at his uncle's in Exeter. From 35 to 90 people — close relatives, in-laws, grandchildren, etc. — are expected at this affair, which is 7 years old. A second celebration, with the Saunderses' immediate family, will take place on Christmas Day.

Operator James Boyd, of Division 2, does more than celebrate Christmas. He captures it on film, so that in later years he and his wife may look back and actually see, rather than merely remember, their two children enjoying this magic day. His pictures are unposed. Rather, like the wide-eyed looks of wonder on the faces of children, and feelings of love and pride in the hearts of parents, they are spontaneous.

Along with family ties and feelings of contentment which are evoked at Christmas, there are memories of bygone years. Some of these memories are pleasant; others are grim, and belong in the past in order to make room for today's friendships and tomorrow's hopes, or for pleasanter memories.

Robert L. Fairfax, Division 11 Operator, remembers Christmas of 1951. He was in a foxhole in Korea with the Marines. His Christmas dinner was a can of pork and rice, and some water. But he remembers also 1943, when he spent Christmas at a boarding school in the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia. There had been a fresh, clean snowfall. The boys and girls had a party and sang carols. "It was a beautiful setting; calm and peaceful — a perfect picture of Christmas."

Of what value is a penny?

When Julia Mendoza, Macy shop cleaner, was a child of six, a single penny in her Christmas stocking was a wonderful gift. It made the holiday complete, and one which still stands out in her mind, regardless of the more bountiful Christmases she and her four children have since experienced.

Christmas is made up of memories — and of "little" things, which, when we look back, suddenly have become important.



James Boyd



"Pat" Patterson



"Smokey" Stover



Leonard Goericke

Christmas Time



Sam Singer, Jr.

Earl ("Smokey") Stover of Division 11 recalls 1947. His wife, Iole, had recently arrived from Rome, where she had met "Smokey" while he was in the service. It was her first Christmas in this country. It is among his favorites.

When Sam Singer, Jr., Division 2 Mechanic "A", thinks of Christmas, he remembers especially those years when his daughter Linda (now 7) and his son Michael (5) first were old enough to appreciate the event. "I got a kick out of watching them enjoy it for the first time. I can still see their expressions of happy surprise and excitement."



William Laird

Operator Jimmy Kresge of Division 2 likes to talk about last Christmas when, for the second consecutive year, he and his wife won first prize for having the best decorated home in East Los Angeles. "We did all the decorating ourselves," adds Jimmy, with justifiable pride.

"I remember," reminisced Operator William Laird of Division 20, "a wooden train I made for myself one Christmas when I was six. The family didn't have too much that year, so we made our own presents. The train was made of wooden blocks, joined together. For flat cars I used plain flat blocks. To make a tank car I added a round snuff can. I remember making wooden doll beds for my two sisters. But I also remember the fun of just anticipating Christmas."



James E. Kresge

John Larrabee, Schedule Bureau Vari-typer, recalls Christmas of 1942. He was in the Naval Reserve in North Africa and had received no mail for two months. "On December 20 my morale was as low as it could have been. Then, the next day, I received two months' back mail: 38 packages and about 40 letters! It took me a month to read all the letters and papers; and I received so many fruit-cakes and cookies that I gave most of them to local residents with whom I had become acquainted. The people were overjoyed — especially the children!"



John Larrabee

In all probability, John, too, was overjoyed. For this is what Christmas is for: joining with others in the realization that there is something which, despite our differences, binds us together. This "something" is the Spirit of Christmas — its love, its laughter, and its memories.



NEW INFORMATION SWITCHBOARD with 16 stations opened Saturday morning, Nov. 22, on the 7th floor of the Transit Authority Building, 1060 S. Broadway, Los Angeles. A new PBX switchboard for business calls is being installed in an adjoining room, and will be in service on January 10 or 11, replacing old board shown on p. 7.

“When Does the Next Bus Leave?”

**Such Queries Don't Faze
Our Info-PAX Girls —
They're Mind-Readers**

“**INFORMATION?** Can I get a Hollywood bus at Seventh and Bullock's?”

“When does the next bus leave?” asked a woman who seemingly didn't care where she was going.

A man seeking information was told that, in addition to regular

CLOSE-UP of a station at the new information switchboard. Clerk is Isabel Ash.



PAX SCENE at 12th and Sentous, showing Miss Elizabeth Wood, Chief PAX and Information Operator, and two of the PAX Operators: Edna Eichhorn, left, and Vida Bowman. Mrs. Eichhorn, Secretary to General Supt. of Transportation M. Edwin Wright, was relieving on the board on the day this photo was taken.



hourly service, there were two express buses. His classic reply was that he wanted to go as a passenger, "not by express!"

If remarks such as the foregoing leave you speechless, you can appreciate the problems of Chief Operator Elizabeth Wood and her staff of 40 Information-PAX Operators. They are forever coping with such verbal gems.

These operators — all women — handle all incoming phone calls,

and must be qualified both as information clerks and telephone operators.

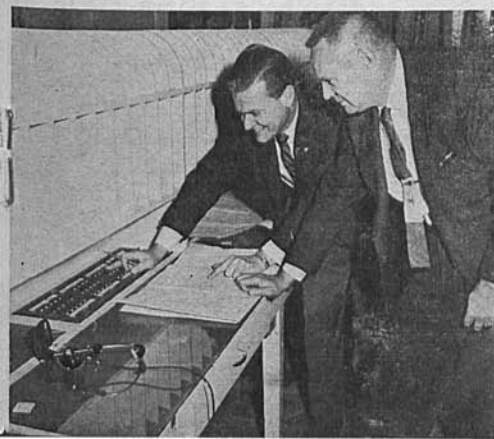
When serving as telephone operators they "man" the two-place PAX board at 12th and Sentous, switching business calls to the proper company extension, or transferring information calls to the information center. When acting as information clerks they take their places at one of the 16 cubicles at the information center at 1060 S. Broadway, where information is given 24 hours a day, seven days a week — although a *full* crew is not always on duty.

Information is also given at the Information Desk at the Sixth and Main depot — the only place where information clerks are visible to, and handle face-to-face inquiries from, the public.

Before a girl can qualify as an Information-PAX Operator, she receives six months' training in routing and schedule-reading.

After the breaking-in period, information personnel have only maps, timetables, and their wits to aid them in smoothing out the many involved situations which will confront them regularly.

CONFERRING over a detail of the switchboard installation are MTA's Walter Whiteside, right, who acted as liaison man with Pacific Telephone for the Electrical Department; and the telephone company's A. G. D'Amico, Installation Foreman.





NOW IT'S HISTORY — One of the last pictures of a Los Angeles-San Pedro train loading on the Viaduct at the 6th and Main Sts. Station, Los Angeles. Operator S. B. McLemore stands beside the red car.

Bus for Rail Starts On San Pedro Line

FOR THE FIRST TIME, passengers from San Pedro may travel direct to the Union Station as a result of the change from rail to bus, effective Dec. 8, on the Los Angeles-San Pedro Line, No. 37.

Trips to the Union Station are made on an express route over Avalon Blvd. and the Harbor Freeway. Coaches on this route will be known as Harbor Freeway Flyers. Flyer service leaves San Pedro Station hourly from 5:40 a.m. to 5:40 p.m., as compared with the former rail service of one limited trip to Los Angeles in the morning peak and one limited to San Pedro in the evening peak.

For local passengers, a new bus line from San Pedro parallels the rail line to a terminus at Compton Station, where augmented Long Beach rail service (Line 36) will pick up those riders destined to points between Los Angeles and Compton.

A total of 52 one-way trips to and from San Pedro daily are now being made, as against 31 on the former rail line.

As new sections of the Harbor Freeway are opened, the Flyer routes will be modified to make use of them to the extent practical.

As is customary when important changes in service or new lines are contemplated, the MTA held a special luncheon meeting of civic, governmental, and press leaders in the districts through which the line operates, in order to acquaint them with the proposed service. Nearly 80 guests heard Executive Director Ralph P. Merritt and General Manager Cone T. Bass tell the story.

Huntington Park Line Combines with LB-San Pedro

THROUGH SERVICE between Huntington Park, Long Beach, and San Pedro began Dec. 8 when the Long Beach-Huntington Park Line 40 was combined with the Long Beach-San Pedro Line 66.

Making use of existing routes, the new service is called the Huntington Park-Long Beach-San Pedro Motor Coach Line 66. Frequency of service remains about the same as before.

Flyers from Pomona

THE FINE RECEPTION given the West Valley Freeway Flyers (which have expanded from an original 8 to a current 19 one-way trips a day) led to a decision to try Flyer service between Pomona and Los Angeles beginning Monday, Dec. 8.

Like the West Valley Flyers, the San Gabriel Valley Freeway Flyer service began with two peak-hour inbound and two peak-hour outbound trips.

A.M. trips leave Pomona Station at 6:33 and 7:03, making all local stops in Pomona, five stops in West Covina, and continuing non-stop to Los Angeles, arriving at the MTA Coach Depot at 7:40 and 8:10.

New Faces

MTA WELCOMES the following new employees, who joined the company between October 26 and November 23:

TRANSPORTATION

Operators: John Abernathy, 9*; Cecil Bell (re-employed), 7; Henry Bibrowicz, 12; Carlyn Brown, 12; Jack Bunch, 12; Donald Caruthers, 11; Floyd Conaway, 10; Robert Conroy, 3; Edward Constantine, 12; D. C. Criddell, 11; Claude Cummings, 7; Donald Dube, 5; George Farias, 12; Leonard Finn, 12; Edmund Fish, Jr., 12; John Franklin, 3; David Galvez, 11; Floyd Gentry, 2; Andrew Gilford, 4; Roy Glidewell, 9; Everett Gough, 12; Robert Harrison, 3; Ronald Harsche, 7; Joe Havas, 12; Victor Henze, 7; William Hicks, 4; William Hosler, 12; Harold Jaques, 2; Abraham Jelier, 10; Roger Johnson, 10; Jack Lambertus, 12; Albert Lann, 12; Isidore LeGras, 5; John Long, 11; Bob Mann, 12; Robert McDonald, 11; Willie Medley, 12; John Miller, 12; R. T. Miller, 6; John Mixon, 3; Buick Monk, Jr., 4; Leon Palmore, 1; J. W. Range, 7; Wilburn Reeves, 10; Harold Richardson, 8; Melvin Saylor, 12; John Seabron, 5; Frank Shewmake, 12; Alvin Smith, 4; Eugene Smith, 12; James Smith, 10; Leo Smith, 12; Robert Spears, 2; Roger Terrell, 4; John Tubbs, 2; Howard Turner, 4; Elmer Voline, 12; Hay-



ward Watson, 12; Robert Wybiral, 12.
PBX Operator: Catherine Krog.
Typist-Clerk: Rose Patrick.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaner Operators: Jay Goines, 12; Clarence Morris, 7; Epifanio Villanueva, 9; Lawrence Walker, 8; Louis Walker, 6.
Janitor: Clinton Shelton, 6.
Mechanic 1st Class: Myron Lund, 6.
Mechanic "B": Yukio Kiyabu, 2.
Office Clerk: John Hunter, 15.
Utility "A": Edward Hector, 2.

ELECTRICAL

Steno-Clerk: Marian Lamb.

PURCHASES AND STORES

Addressograph Operator: Louis Morris.
Temporary Junior Stock Clerk: James Simmons.

PERSONNEL

Clerk-Typist: Virginia Reczek.

* Number of Division where employed.

In Memoriam

THE EMBLEM records with regret the following recent deaths among employees:

Helpes, Almer J., 66, retired Substation Operator; Nov. 17; survived by his wife, Mary.

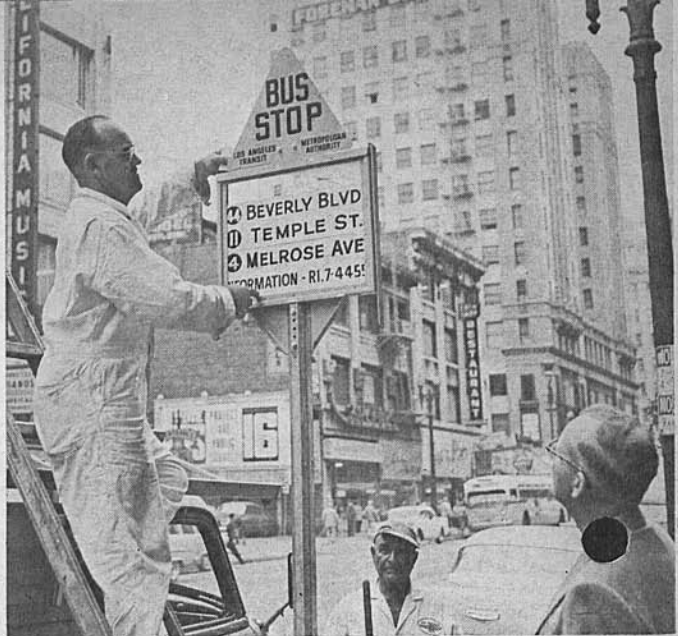
MacDonald, George W., 78,

retired Chief Clerk, Auditing; Nov. 5; survived by his wife, Emma.

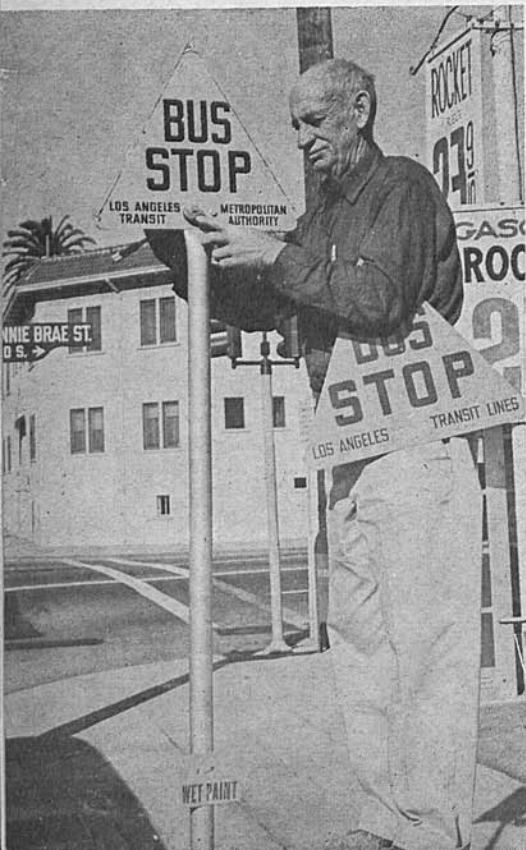
Nolff, Wesley C., 54, Foreman, El Monte Garage; Oct. 31; survived by his wife, Gladys.

Rosa, Lawrence, 73, retired Motorman; Nov. 1; survived by his wife, Carlotta.

Better Bus Stops Help Public



NEW-TYPE BUS STOP SIGN being completed in downtown Los Angeles near 8th and Hill Sts. by Mechanics Leonard Cummings (on ladder installing slats) and Saldívar Domingo under the direction of C. E. ("Kia") Forkner, Supt., Stops & Zones. Note new information number.



FIFTY-FIVE more of the new-type square-frame bus stop signs containing informational slats or louvres are rapidly being installed in the central business district of the downtown Los Angeles area.

"Passengers appreciate being able to see by a glance just what lines Stops and Zones, under whose di- ("Kia") Forkner, Superintendent of stop at the sign," commented C. E. rection the work is being done.

The square signs are being installed by a Way and Structures

EDWARD L. MOORE, under Mr. Forkner's supervision, installs and maintains all bus stops unless extra help is required in an emergency. Here he is replacing an old yellow sign with a green MTA sign.



ABOVE — Saldivar loosens cement, while Leonard holds broom to stop flying pieces. **UPPER RIGHT** — New sign with new-type supporting pole is taken from supply on truck, placed in old hole, and (**RIGHT**) cemented in. Proper informational slats are then installed. **INFORMATION SLATS** are made in MTA shops. Here Harlan Schumacher is painting lettering on a sign at the South Park Shops.



crew, called in emergency to rush this important project to completion.

Meanwhile, Mr. Forkner's regular Bus Stop Maintainer, Edward L. ("Ed") Moore, is busy replacing the old yellow signs with the triangular green MTA signs over the entire system. As of Dec. 1, he had completed Lines 11, 30, 31, 32, 34, 50, 54, and 73. He is currently working on Lines 33 and 37.



Retirements

TWO EMPLOYEES with more than 40 years of service each head the list of retirements for September, October, and November.* They are Traffic Checker Charley Aen, with over 41 years; and Marion G. Snowden, with almost 41 years.

Charley worked as a Conductor out of Division 3 from 1917 to 1938, before becoming a Checker.

"I hope your future associations will be as pleasant as ours have been in the past," said General Supt. M. Edwin Wright to Charley at a farewell gathering.

For almost 41 years the rare and gentle spirit of "Snowie" (Marion Snowden) has been a blessed influence in the lives of her fellow-workers at PE, MCL, and MTA. The affection she inspires has not been limited to the members of the PE and Metro accounting departments or of the MTA Secretary's office—in all of which places she has worked in various clerking capacities. It originates with her own great kindness and love for others. "She is always ready to do a good turn, and eager to help when the going is roughest," says Assistant Auditor E. H. Uecker, who was her superior officer for many years. "Her work was always perfect."

Others retiring with records of long and faithful service include Amelia Grenke, Ticket Stock Clerk, Accounting Department, almost 39 years; Alphonso H. Lohr, Mechanic, Division 5, 35 years; James I. Peters, Operator, Division 3, 24 years; and three Macy mechanics: Earl A. Watson, Upholsterer, 38 years; Andrija Pervan, Painter, 35 years; Marino D. Menni, Carpenter, 19 years.

* The story of the retirement of Ticket Clerk Norman Sewall, MTA's senior employee, with 49 years, appeared in the October issue.



LUGGAGE is presented to Charley Aen, retiring Traffic Checker, right, by Dave Coburn, Supervisor of Schedules, on behalf of fellow-workers, at farewell party.



BEACH AT WAIKIKI will be the vacation spot for Ticket Stock Clerk Amelia Grenke (pointing to place she has selected to spread her beach towel on) and MTA Secretary's Clerk Marion G. ("Snowie") Snowden, who will travel there together after retiring from service Christmas Eve.

SYMBOLIC TURN-IN of tools of their trade being made by three retiring men of the Macy Body Shop to Clerk Marcia Smith, everybody's favorite. Foreman Gus Gundersen, in white coat, looks on approvingly. Others, from left, are Carpenter Marino D. Menni, Upholsterer Watson Antis, Painter Andrija Pervan.



OUR COVER

"TO YOU AND YOURS.... A very, very, merry Christmas and a happy New Year," says the car card greeting containing this jolly picture of Santa "driving" three transit vehicles.

Signed "Your MTA Operator," the greeting card for passengers is currently posted in MTA vehicles.

Operator Clarence G. Urschel wrote the verse on the card:

"To and from your work and play
We've brought you safely every day.
Throughout the year that has just
passed
We hope the friends we've made will
last . . .
And with the coming of the New
We hope that we'll be seeing you."

Dawkins Wins \$1000 On Groucho Marx Show

THE APPEARANCE of his picture as Operator of the Month on a car card during January, 1957, eventually led Operator Roscoe Dawkins to winnings of \$1000 on the Groucho Marx show televised Dec. 4, 1958.

"A lady passenger on my Line 85 bus saw the picture and said to me, 'With that smile you ought to be on television.' She told me where to apply — and I did," says Roscoe. "I'm going to use some of the money for a vacation trip to Detroit to see my relatives."

FLASH

Rose Parade Note

WATCH the Glendale float in the Rose Parade. Riding on it will be Princess Diane McBain, beautiful (1957 Queen of the Days of the Verdugos, ten times a cover girl in 1958 — the tenth time: January, 1959 True Confessions), 17-year-old daughter of Division 10 Operator and Mrs. W. G. McBain.

The Emblem

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FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY

GIVE...

IN TRAFFIC



DONT BE A YULE FOOL!



GREATER LOS ANGELES CHAPTER NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

THE MTA EMBL
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