



HEAD



WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 3, Number 10, June 11, 1976

District Adopts Minority Business Program

On May 5, the RTD Board of Directors adopted a Minority Business Utilization Program, an affirmative action program aimed to result in greater opportunities for minority contractors in the Los Angeles area.

The program requires prime contractors with the District to use minority group contractors or sub contractors in no less than 25 per cent of each building contract. Under the agreement, the 25 per cent minority contractor requirement may be scaled down on a project-by-project basis depending on the availability of qualified minority craftsmen.

Also, under the agreement, RTD will reduce from ten to five percent of the total contract price it normally withholds from its building contractors pending completion of the work, and will also pay minority contractors on a semi-monthly, rather than the former monthly basis, to aid them with cash-flow problems.

The minority contractors involved are the California Association of Mexican-American Contractors, the Minority Contractors Assn. of Los Angeles, the Pasadena Urban Coalition and the Oriental Builders Assn.

The District awarded \$700,000 in building contracts during Fiscal Year 1976 and projections for the 1977 Fiscal Year total \$9.4 million.



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY —

The coins above are just some of the 550 pounds of foreign coins that RTD had accumulated during the past three years. The District has just sold the coins in bulk to the highest bidder, a coin collector in Beverly Hills, since the coins cannot be redeemed at local banks. The 'loot' includes sens, fens, cents, pence and pesos, and many others. These coins have increased dramatically since the exact-fare system went into operation in 1969. The District accumulates a 50-pound bag of foreign coins about every three months.

'Fingering' some of the cash above are, from left to right, Tom Collins, cashier and asst. treasurer; Amy Hirashima, asst. cashier; and Ollie Hampton, asst. cashier.

Employee Recreation News

It's theatre time again with a brace of fine productions being offered. Scheduled for July 13 will be "A Chorus Line" at the Shubert Theatre followed July 30 by the award winning musical "The Wiz," at the Ahmanson Theatre. Both of these fine productions should provide an evening of unprecedented entertainment. Call extension 6580 for tickets and information.

Over 630 employees and their families enjoyed RTD day at Knott's Berry Farm May 16, and from the looks of current ticket sales, more than that number will be on hand for RTD Day at Dodger Stadium.

Just a word of explanation regarding the delay in getting our softball league underway. As you recall, we are working through the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to secure lighted playing fields and umpires. Unfortunately, midway through this process, the person who sets up all league play for the city took suddenly ill and went to the hospital. His replacement was not familiar with what had been done, so the whole process was delayed. We have been assured, however, that things are under control once again and all league teams, both city and RTD, will begin play no later than the second week of June. Be assured we are doing everything in our power to expedite the program.

On the brighter side, Mr. Jeff Diehl has consented to serve as Director of Bowling for the coming fall and winter league. It will be his responsibility to organize each divisional league into balanced teams and coordinate the efforts of the officers of each league. More information on bowling will be included in the next issue of Headway.

What It's Really Like

Driving Down the Diamond Lane

Diamond Lanes are an operator's best friend, according to the District operators whose work run includes a stint down the Diamond Lane on the Santa Monica Freeway.

To find out what it was really like on the lane, Headway visited Division 6 and talked to some of those Diamond Lane drivers. Operator Richard Stevens, a 20-year veteran with RTD enjoys driving down the Diamond Lane on Line 604 and says, "It's the smartest thing that's been done about public transportation." He notes: "My passengers have increased from 25-30 to 55-65 and I can make the trip downtown from Santa Monica three times as fast."

Operator James Cain who is on the extra board says, "I love driving the Diamond Lane. I like the lane itself and I also like the passengers. They're very nice to me because they're so pleased with the Diamond Lane. It's the best thing that happened to transportation. My friends at the beach call me Diamond Jim because I talk about the Diamond Lane so much."

Operator Mary Collins drives the 602 and says, "It's a nice lane for the buses. All my passengers say they're pleased with the Diamond Lane. The only problem is that car drivers with three or more in

their car sometimes seem to have nothing better to do than drive down the lane at 30 miles per hour."

Operator Gurson Levitt says, "It's just about the best thing that happened here. I drive the 708 Park and Ride and I've had some passengers who had never ridden a bus before say it was the best thing that ever happened to them."

Operator Carl Haley says, "It's beautiful. You can stay at a good steady speed around 45-50. It's a nice speed and the passengers can see how convenient it is."

Operator Eustace Girod who works the extra board says, "The Diamond Lane is good for the people who use freeways because the chances of an accident are lessened and nobody cuts in front of you. People should also take into consideration how economical it is," he adds.

Operator Beverly Huskey says the Diamond Lane is "great. My riders are increasing daily and the passengers are so pleased that they spread the news by word of mouth. The economy is also a big factor. One man told me that his insurance was cut in half when he told them he was going down the Diamond Lane."

Operator Ivan Ray Webb, who has been with the District for 6½ years, bid

for the Diamond Lane during this last shake-up and is looking forward to driving the 604 on the Diamond Lane. He says: "It's a fast lane at the peak hours."

(Continued on Page 2)

Another Rap Session



Division 4-5 was the scene of the most recent rap session held during the last week of May.

Members of the Los Angeles Police Department were on hand to explain 'Operation Ride-Along' and discuss other aspects of operator safety; and representatives of RTD's management staff were on hand to answer questions on policy and any other questions of interest to District operators.



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RTD Director Ruth Richter: A Lady In Transportation

Ruth Richter, RTD's newest board member, is a lady who has spent most of her life in the field of transportation and so, when appointed to the Board by L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, she had an idea of what she was getting into.

For all her experience, however, she admits: "I didn't realize the magnitude of the District and its entire operation."

Like the other directors, Mrs. Richter found that being on the board "takes a lot more time than I anticipated," but, she adds, "there are a lot of things that need getting done."

Mrs. Richter got her early, first-hand transit experience as a girl growing up in Illinois where her parents owned a trucking company; now, she and her husband, Jay, are owners-operators of a cycle dealership in Winnetka in the San Fernando Valley.

One of the first things Mrs. Richter did was take a tour of the District operating and maintenance facilities and she liked what she saw. "I was amazed at the neatness and cleanliness of the shops," she said and adds, "I'm also very impressed by the dedication of all the employees from the men and women in the divisions to the executive staff."

As a lady who knows the nuts and bolts of the transportation business, Mrs. Richter also is familiar with dispatching and scheduling, having worked as a truck dispatcher in Illinois. She understands some of the operational problems involved, such as getting a steering

mechanism for the double deck buses. Mrs. Richter also comments that "there is a lot of similarity between trucking and bus driving. Similar problems, pressures and people."

Along with her transportation experience, Mrs. Richter brings to her seat on the board governmental, civic and other advisory experience.

As a board member who is also a resident of the San Fernando Valley, Mrs. Richter tries to follow up on complaints, and keep tabs on the plans for two more divisions in the east and west San Fernando Valley.

As a member of the Finance and Surface Operations and Advance Planning committees, she works to keep up with the voluminous information that is sent to the board members for their review and study.

Mrs. Richter is a strong advocate of public transportation and a strong supporter of the San Fernando Valley grid system. She is convinced that if people realized the convenience of public transportation, such as commuter bus lines to downtown L.A., they would become staunch supporters of public transportation. "If they used the bus for one week for their routine trips, they would realize the convenience and economy of public transportation." Speaking of transportation in the San Fernando Valley, she adds: "I think that the grid system in the Valley is fantastic. It is serving the people and ridership is continually going up."



RTD Director Ruth Richter applies a wrench to an RTD bus engine during a recent tour of District facilities.

Although she had resigned from two of her civic organizations, she still keeps her membership in the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley; the Valley-wide Committee on Streets

and Highways; the Mayor's Valley Transportation Advisory Committee and is an ex officio board member of the Industrial Association of the San Fernando Valley.

Diamond Lane Drivers (continued from page 1)



Division 6 operators, from left: Carl Haley, James Cain and Gurson Levitt are among the District's Diamond Lane Drivers.



The Diamond Lane has its share of lady operators, such as Beverly Huskey, center, and Mary Collins, second from right. With them are: Billie Hawkins, far left; Mary Charles, second from left; and Fannie Ellis, far right, all from Division 6.

Donald Barnes: Bus Operator and Filmmaker

Division 7 operator Donald Barnes is a busy man these days. Between his job as an operator during the week and his weekend stints as a movie projectionist, he is in the midst of winding up the filming of his first feature film which he hopes to enter in a USC Cinema workshop.

Barnes has been around films ever since he was a teenager when, with the urging of his teacher, he learned how to operate a projector. Now he belongs to two locals of the Motion Picture Projectionists Union in addition to being a bus operator. Barnes had previously done two 30-minute films of friends' weddings but this is his first feature length film and is an ambitious project.

The 70-minute color film is a detective murder mystery. Barnes adapted the script from a radio play and acted as producer, director, cameraman and casting director.

For his actors, Barnes used nine of his friends including several district operators who agreed to help him out, including Leilia Bailey, extra division dispatcher; Philmore Crawford, extra division dispatcher; Harold Kenneybrew, Division 6 operator; Jessie Davis, Division 7 operator; and Barnes himself, who plays the role of a detective. Briefly told, the story is about a young woman who murders her old, wealthy husband and then tries to pin the blame on the handyman. There is also another murder in the plot. Why did Barnes choose this theme for his movie which is entitled, "Greed"? "I wanted something that was a challenge and that was hard to do," he explains.

The locations used were Barnes' home in Baldwin Park; Inglewood; a scenic hill overlooking the city; inside a car and in front of a city hall.

Sounding typically like a director, Barnes says of his actors: "Everyone did a tremendous job and had more talent

than I thought. The directing was easy, the actors had talent they didn't know they had, and I had to bring it out."

Barnes found the editing to be the hardest and most complicated job, followed closely by the chore of getting everyone coordinated and organized. Also, the processing and the lighting were difficult.

Barnes credits his wife, Felecie, who gave some advice and acted as executive producer. In all, the film cost Barnes about \$1,000 out of his own pocket.

Though making films is a lot of work, Barnes is already making preliminary plans to do a feature film about a bus operator. He says of his experience on "Greed": "I thought it was a good experience and that I did well. I learned a lot — and the next film will be even better!"



Operator and Filmmaker Barnes on the 'Set'

Barbara Hagen, Chief Telephone Operator, Honored at Birthday Party

Barbara Hagen, the District's chief telephone operator, who has often given surprise birthday parties and showers for her information operators, was herself the recent recipient of a surprise birthday party in her honor.

Barbara has been with the District 20 years and started out as a part-time information operator. She became a full-time information operator, then a supervisor and in 1968 was made the District's chief telephone operator.

As head of the telephone information department, Barbara has successfully overseen a department which has undergone an enormous expansion of service and modernization, and she says, "I get a lot of help from the assistant supervisors who make things go smoothly from day to day. I have to give a lot of credit to people who help me in this job."

Barbara notes that her department has grown with the rest of the District. She cites that male information operators have been hired for the first time and the department is now using the most modern telephone equipment available.

Although it means more work for her department, Barbara is pleased about the District's large area of service including increased frequency of service, the increase in the District's service area and the efforts towards rapid transit.

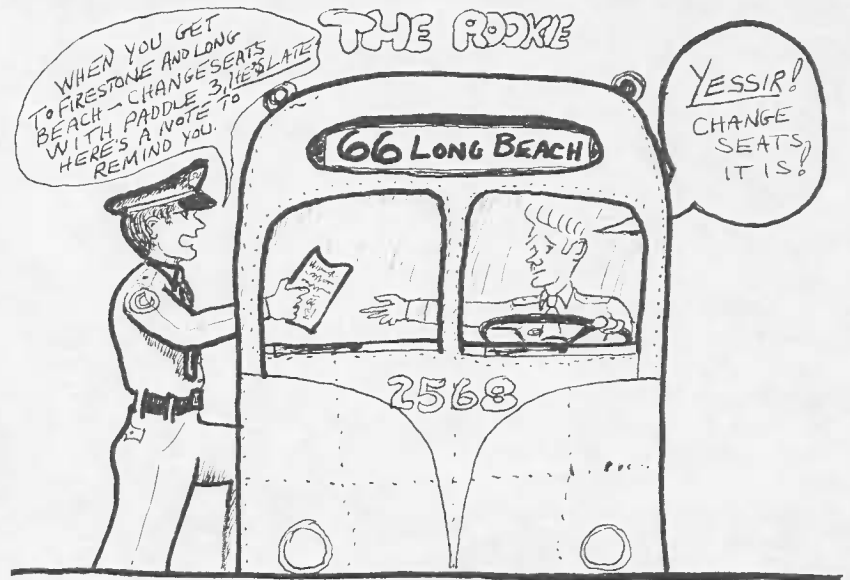
Barbara says that the goal of the telephone information department is "to give courteous and accurate service to



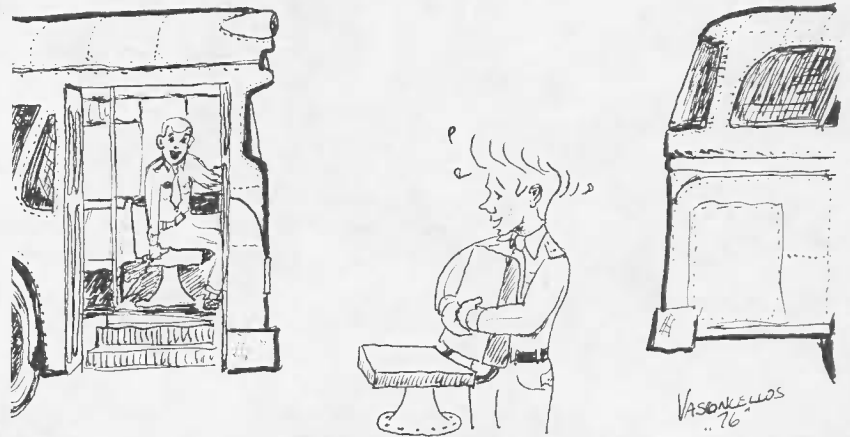
A SURPRISED AND PLEASED Barbara Hagen has some birthday cake at a surprise party in her honor given by the telephone information department.

everyone on a personal basis." As head of the department, she says she tries "to deal with each operator fairly and equally, to constantly upgrade the quality of service and to keep on top of the District's new services."

Barbara, a resident of San Pedro who came to California in 1936, is a native of Rainier, Oregon, and has two children and two grandchildren. She enjoys working in her yard — when she has the time.



LATER . . .



John W. Vasconcellos, extra division dispatcher out of Division 12, contributed this cartoon to Headway.

Operations Corner By George W. Heinle Manager of Operations

Did those of you who are bus operators know that you might have carried "Starsky & Hutch" on your bus last week? Not the TV actors, of course, but real live "Starsky & Hutch" types — plainclothes officers — who are part of LAPD's Ride-Along program. This program, which was started on a test basis in the downtown area early this year, was so successful in curtailing criminal acts on the District's buses that it has now been expanded to all areas of the city. That helpless little old lady who stumbled up the aisle, or that long-haired teenager who look like he was on a high, could well have been one of the Ride-Along team's disguised officers.

Lt. Shepherd, who heads up this program in the Newton Street Division, reports that most bus drivers as well as the general public are completely unaware of the presence of Ride-Along team members until, or unless, arrests are made on the vehicle. These Ride-

Along teams always work as a group of three or four members on a single bus and the disguises used are many and varied. When an arrest is to be made on your bus, one of the team members sitting toward the front of the bus will identify himself to you as a police officer. Other team members will inform the public.

Knowing that the matter of personal safety of the bus operator as well as safety for our passengers is a matter of prime concern to us all, the District's Special Agents Department has been working closely with the LAPD, the County Sheriff's Department, and other law enforcement agencies in expanding this type of surveillance in the District's service area. Furthermore, in an effort to identify those lines, trips, and locations where the potential for crime is greatest, the representatives of the Ride-Along teams are visiting the District's operating divisions to rap with bus operators on a face-to-face basis. Meetings were held recently at Divisions 1, 2, and 4-5, and the input from drivers there was excellent. Team members urge drivers to report incidents to the District's Special

Agents Department on an ongoing basis through the use of either the Passenger Dispute Card or a Miscellaneous Report. They request that Operators report all incidents where a crime has been perpetrated on their bus, no matter how minor, or where juvenile or gang activities are prevalent and indicate the potential for crime. These reports should indicate the nature of the activity, location, time of day, route, and run number. In this manner, Ride-Along teams can give priorities in their efforts to those lines and trips reported by operators.

While I personally will not be satisfied until all criminal activity on buses has been eliminated, I think we can all be grateful that our local law enforcement agencies recognize the problem and are willing to devote this kind of effort to it. The results to date are most gratifying. The rate of physical assaults on drivers just in the first three months of this year is down 20% from the same period last year. Assaults on passengers are similarly down 20%; and robberies and thefts from drivers or passengers have been reduced more than 80%.

The suspicions of potential criminals

that LAPD undercover officers might be on every bus has undoubtedly reduced criminal activity on buses. Furthermore, the use of the silent alarms, emergency flashers and roof numbers has resulted in an unprecedented apprehension rate of 45% in major crimes committed on buses. Also, I am pleased to report that the Urban Mass Transportation Administration has, after many months, given the District contingent approval of the specifications for radios with which we intend to equip every bus. Actual work on this project should start before the first of next year.

The problem of bus security is not an easy one to solve and will not be completely solved until the whole community, all the citizens, indicate to the elected officials and judges that they will not put up with crime in the community. I believe, however, that the RTD as well as the local law enforcement agencies have done more to make our buses safe than any other transit property in the nation and that with your cooperation we can make them even safer, safer in fact than most streets, most automobiles, most public buildings, or even many homes.

Moving Up

Name	Div/Dept.	From/To	Date
Adams, George H.	3209	Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher To Operator	5/16/76
Brown, Walter	3334	Laborer "A" To Property Maintainer "B"	5/16/76
Cady, Ralph L.	3500	Personnel Technician To Schedule Analyst	5/10/76
Denson, Joseph R.	3205	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/17/76
Fields, Harold	3207	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/16/76
Hinton, Charlie Mack	3318	Utility "A" To Utility "A" Leadman	5/16/76
Juatco, Emilie F.	7100	Typist Clerk To Payroll Clerk	5/20/76
Kelley Jr., Harold V.	3150	Print Shop Clerk To Multilith Operator	4/11/76
Lautenbach, Donald C.	3215	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/21/76
Lee Jr., Jim	3900	Security Guard I To Security Guard II	5/8/76
Licking, James W.	3215	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/20/76
McDonald, Charles J.	32202	Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher To Operator	5/16/76
Miley, Brenda M.	5000	Information Clerk To Information Clerk/Extra Supervisor	5/16/76

Miller, Robert L.	3209	Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher To Operator	5/16/76
Morales, Frank J.	3309	Utility "A" To Utility "A" Leadman	5/16/76
Nahra, Gerge	3218	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/15/76
Owens, Stanley L.	3215	Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher To Operator	5/16/76
Pelaez, Richard	3900	Operator-Extra Special Agent To Special Agent	5/18/76
Reedy, Ronnie A.	3202	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/18/76
Shaw, Floyd D.	3900	Operator-Extra Special Agent To Special Agent	5/18/76
Tassone, Paul	33334	Utility "A" To Property Maintainer "B"	5/16/76
Wert, Michael	3209	Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher To Operator	5/16/76
Wooten, Rodney L.	3204	Operator To Operator-Extra Division Dispatcher	5/14/76

In Memoriam

Name	Classification	Deceased
Bridgman, William C.	Former Operator 3202 (Ret)	5/10/76
Gouge, George	Former Mechanic "B" 3302 (Ret)	4/7/76
Preston, Louise F.	Former Control Clerk 7100 (Ret)	5/10/76
Thomas, Robert	Former Laborer "A" 3308 (Ret)	5/18/76

Happy
Anniversary



Congratulations to Frank and Shirley Richardson who celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on May 28 in Las Vegas. Frank is an operator at Division 9 and Shirley is a clerk-typist in the Employment Office.

The whole Richardson family is oriented towards transportation. Their son, Dan, works as a Utility "A" at Division 9 and a daughter and daughter-in-law work for Southern Pacific Railroad. The Richardsons wonder if their three grandchildren will end up in transportation as well!

New Arrivals



Division 12 operator Mafo Mason, and his wife, Linda, announce the birth of their first son, second child, Mafo, Jr., born April 21, weighing 6 lbs., 4 ozs.

The Mason family resides in Long Beach. Mafo has been with the District since 1965.

SAVINGS BOND DRIVE PLANNED FOR JUNE

Employees will be contacted by volunteer department/division canvassers during the latter part of June, as part of the joint District/Union support to encourage employees to purchase U.S. Series "E" Bonds through the payroll savings deduction plan. District Bond Drive Coordinator, Bill Kendall, personnel analyst, says that "Buying U.S. Savings Bonds through a payroll deduction is a painless way to save." Savings Bonds earn 6% when held to the 5-year maturity date and are guaranteed against loss by fire, theft or mutilation. Bill also notes that interest income will not be subject to Federal income tax until redemption and adds that the bonds are exempt from California income tax.

A monthly Savings Bond deduction of \$3.75 will appreciate to \$251 in 5 years and \$1,059 in 15 years. One U.S. Savings Bond purchased for \$18.75 will yield \$25 upon maturity.

BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS



HEADWAY

Volume 3 Number 10
Published by and for the employees of the Southern California Rapid Transit District. Send stories, photos, or just the facts to Daria Schlega, HEADWAY, 6th Floor, 425 So. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

A Farewell Party for Delia Almaraz



From left to right are: Joe Catalano, asst. special agent; Kenny Ferguson, cash clerk; Clint Shelton, cash clerk, extra assistant supervisor; Pat Coble, staff assistant II, Administration; Earl Barnhart, cash clerk; Ernest Parker (standing) temporary cash clerk; Dorothy Miller, cash clerk; Bill Ferguson, asst. supervisor, central counting office; Delia Almaraz; George Kotoulas, asst. superintendent, central cash accounting office; Ken Irvin, cash clerk (standing), extra assistant supervisor; Glen Lemieux, cash clerk; Vanessa Hamilton, cash clerk; Bob Miller, supervisor, central cash counting office.

Employees and friends from the District's Central Cash Counting Room turned out in full force to honor Delia Almaraz at a farewell party. Delia, who is leaving the District after 10 years to go into missionary work, was one of the first employees in the Cash Counting Room.

A resident of La Puente, Delia will be entering the Christmatic Christian Renewal Organization which is located in the City of Industry. Once there, she will

await future assignment to Rome, Italy or Mexico.

Delia, a dedicated traveler on her own, has traveled in recent years to Europe, Mexico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. It was through her travels that she became aware of the need for volunteers in this field of endeavor.

At the party, Delia was presented with a lovely watch as well as numerous other gifts as remembrances from her co-workers and friends.

District Cash Room Praised

Vanessa Hamilton, cash clerk, and Headway correspondent from the Cash Room, reports that the Cash Room crew played host recently to a visitor from Chicago, Daniel Perk, Manager of the Treasury at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA).

Perk heads an operation employing 165 people which counts over \$600,000 a day in coin and about \$170,000 in currency, in seven different locations in outlying areas of Chicago. The CTA sells no passes or tickets, thus accounting for the large cash flow.

After visiting the Cash Room, Vanessa reports that Perk commended it as being an efficient operation and said he hopes that CTA's counting facilities will always be as well operated and maintained as the District's.

RTD Classifieds

FOR SALE —

AKC Pembroke Welsh Corgi puppies. Cute, lively, fun LITTLE dogs. Very alert watchdogs. Phone 213-960-2177 after 8:00 p.m. Warren Ray, Division 3203.

Sacrifice — moved away. 2 choice lots, Glen Haven Memorial Park. (Laurel Section — C.D.) 330,331 — \$300 for both. Phone 714-599-7287. C. P. Tribble, (Retired).

1973 Porsche 914-1.7 Bik with tan int., mags, stereo radio, fine condition, 43,000 mi., orig. owner. \$4,900. Call 845-1950 after 8 p.m. or anytime Thursday or Friday. Bob Grueter, Division 15.



Division 18 operators Jeanne Bernard, center, and Curtiss Rowe, right, personally stopped by Transit Headquarters to purchase their tickets for the recent RTD Day at Knott's Berry Farm from Betty Sconce, left, secretary II. The little guy in the picture is Jeanne's son, Larry, 2, who looks more interested (at the moment at least) in his RTD bus cutout.

Six hundred and thirty-five tickets were sold to the event making it one of the most successful events in the current employee recreation program.

FOR SALE — LOVE AND PROTECTION — Adorable mixed breed female pups, 14 weeks, shots, free spay, \$15. Call 226-6999 or 255-3951.

Achievements



Mrs. Frances Onderco

Mrs. Frances Onderco, wife of Division 9 operator Philip Onderco, was recently honored with the "Employee of Year" award for her outstanding work for the El Monte School District. The award was given to her by the Classified School Employees Association, Chapter 10.

The Ondercos reside in El Monte and have two daughters.



Bill Reason

Bill Reason, audio-visual coordinator for the District, who celebrated his 7th year with RTD on May 19, has been elected to membership in the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.

The society elects from the upper ten percent of students maintaining a 3.75 grade point average or better. Reason has maintained a 3.92 GPA as a graduate student at California State University, Long Beach.

In the course of the last five years, Reason has obtained a BA in Speech Communication and is currently writing his Master's Thesis for Vocational Education. He is half way through a second Master's in Instructional Media. He plans to receive both Masters' Degree at the same time during Summer 1977 graduation ceremonies.

Operator De Vasher Expresses Thanks

Operator Marie De Vasher would like to express her sincere thanks and gratitude to her many friends at the District who have sent her flowers, plants, cards, telephone calls and prayers during the past seven months.

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