



HEAD



WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 4, Number 10, December 1977

Employee 'team spirit' wins World Series seats



Los Angeles Dodgers' Dusty Baker in action

Several deserving RTD employees were each awarded a pair of highly coveted tickets to the exciting World Series in October as part of the District's ongoing employee incentive program.

The Maintenance Department held a District-wide drawing for their employees based on good work and attendance records. The recipients of the tickets were Thomas Hower, Mechanic A at Division 14, and Manuel Gonzales, Mechanic A, Division 2.

For the telephone information operators, another pair of tickets was awarded, based on superior attendance and overall job performance. The winner was Dorothy Hoccom, Information Clerk, who has had a perfect attendance record since the first of this year.

Separate drawings were held by the Transportation Department for the pairs of tickets allotted to them. The winners—all with outstanding work records—were Charles Mims, Supervisor, Division 18; Charles V. Colbert, Instructor, Division 8; Vernon E. Marye, Division 18 Dispatcher; James J. Waseloff, Operator, Division 9; and Tilmon Perry, Operator, Division 12.

A portion of the field box seat tickets were obtained by the Recreation Department. The remaining tickets, obtained by the Marketing and Communications Department, were given to RTD for their sponsorship of Dodgers broadcasts on Radio Station KABC. A total of 186 Dodger games from March 15 to October 2 featured 60-second commercials highlighting RTD bus services, monthly pass sales and discount fares.

The World Series tickets came as an extra bonus to the other Dodgers premiums given the District for use in their employee good attitude-building program. These included two box seats and dinner for two for the Operator, Maintenance Employee and Information Operator of the Month; 200 box seat tickets given away at the annual employee picnic; 162 pairs of box seats distributed to employees in a random drawing for each Dodger home game during the season; and a two-for-one night for RTD employees.

Each World Series ticket, tagged at \$15 each, was valued at as much as \$50 each just prior to the game.

Operators get preview of tomorrow's mass transportation

Bus operators at seven divisions received special presentations describing the proposed Regional Core Rapid Transit Starter Line as well as other aspects of a four-point program to meet the Los Angeles region's future transportation needs. This program has the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the City, State, County, District and the new Los Angeles County Transportation Commission.

The presentations, made at Divisions 1, 2, 3-10, 4-5, 7, 8 and 15 during November, were given by Lou Collier and Marvey Chap-

man, Community Representatives II of the District's Rapid Transit Department. These divisions were chosen because they have bus lines running through the area that would be affected.

The goal was not only "to inform the drivers so they'll be able to answer their riders' questions" on the proposed projects, Chapman explained, but also to obtain their ideas and suggestions on improving transportation.

Similar presentations in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles Planning Department are being made to the public and to key

organizations interested in the transit development program. "We want to talk to the people who live in these areas, work there and drive there," she said. Before making a final decision on any of the proposals, the effect on the community and the economy, the cost and effectiveness must be evaluated.

The current effort involves the evaluation of several bus/rail and all-bus alternatives through the regional core—the high density area encompassing the Wilshire corridor, Hollywood and North Hollywood.

The RTD community represen-

tatives also highlighted the other three options under study: Transportation Systems Management, a program of local and express bus improvements; Freeway Transit with ramp metering, free-flow buses on the freeway, and creation of exclusive busways; and Downtown People Mover, a system to transport persons living and working in the central Los Angeles area.

A final decision and implementation of any of these options awaits citizen group meetings, environmental impact reports, public hearings and then the securing of adequate funds.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The year-end holiday season is once again upon us, a time traditionally given to sharing in the festive spirit, exchanging messages of goodwill, and expressing gratitude for the year's accomplishments and blessings.

This is also an especially appropriate time for me, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Management, to express pride in the dedication and teamwork shown by the District's employees during 1977. This past year has been particularly trying due to budget constraints, service cuts and resulting personnel layoffs. I am confident this same attitude will continue and insure a more prosperous new year.

My warmest wishes for a most joyful holiday season to each of you and your families.

Jack Gilstrap, General Manager



Chapman details proposed starter line to Div. 3-10 operators

Unexpected bonus



Jeff Diehl (left), Superintendent of Transportation Services, congratulates Charles Mims, one of several World Series ticket winners



Robert Williams (right), Manager of Customer Relations, and Barbara Hagen (center), Chief of Telephone Operations, award World Series tickets to a surprised but delighted Dorothy Hoccom



Thomas Hower (center) conveys his thanks to Bob Falvey (left), Equipment Maintenance Manager at South Park, and Bob Wick (right), Superintendent of Divisions for the pair of coveted tickets given him as part of RTD's on-going employee incentive program

'Vintage' bus tours District

District employees caught a glimpse of transportation's past on October 24 when the only known restored bus of the GM-TDH 4506 series toured Southern California with its new owner.

This historic bus, number 6339, was delivered to an RTD predecessor—the Los Angeles Transit Lines—in 1946. Legend has it that these buses arrived in grey primer paint and went into service so quickly their fleet numbers had to be chalked on.

During 1958, 6339 was transferred to the successor company, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, and then sold to several other lines, changing colors and bus numbers with each different transit company.

The bus was withdrawn from service in Sacramento during 1973 and then reactivated shortly afterwards during the Arab oil em-

bargo. Two years later it was again retired.

In July, 1976, Richard Lewis Mendes of Sacramento purchased and began refurbishing it, using information provided by Jerry Squier, RTD Associate Surface Planner, and George Powell, now-retired RTD General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment.

With the assistance of several other transit authorities, Mendes restored it to its approximate 1952-53 vintage appearance with the famous National City Lines' "Fruit Salad" exterior color scheme (Chrome Yellow, Sage Green and Egg Shell White) and a Pullman Green and White interior. Every effort was made to keep it as authentic as possible, right down to the car cards of yesteryear.

The project required painstaking labor and long hours, Mendes said, adding that credit must be given to the excellent maintenance it received from its original owners.



Mendes (far left), Squier (center), and Zeke Allen, Operations Staff, inspect historic "fruit salad" bus

Employees invited to take advantage of RTD deferred compensation plan

Each December, enrollment is open in the Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan. For current plan participants, this month also provides the opportunity to increase or decrease the deferred amounts and to change the way the funds are invested.

The Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan permits District employees to set aside a portion of their wages and not pay taxes on that money, or earnings thereon, until their retirement when taxes should be lower due to lower earnings by the employee.

Additionally, gross wages are reduced by the deferred amount for withholding tax purposes. The minimum amount that can be deferred is \$15 per pay period with the maximum not to exceed 90 per cent of your pay. The plan has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

The deferred funds will be paid to plan participants upon retirement or termination from District service. If the sum accumulated is significant, the District will arrange to spread out the payment over a set period of time. Taxes are payable only on amounts received

during each calendar year.

If a participant dies, payment will be made to a designated beneficiary(ies). Withdrawals from the plan are not permitted unless a severe financial hardship is proven. You may, however, discontinue contributions at any time, with previously deferred amounts remaining in the plan until retirement or District employment termination.

Deferred wage amounts may be invested in any of the following ways:

1) Short-term investment which may include bank certificates of deposit, federal government securities, or issues of U.S. governmental agencies.

2) An annuity with a large national life insurance company.

3) A no-load bond fund.

4) A no-load mutual stock fund.

The plan is supervised by the District Treasurer, with individual employee accounts maintained by a specialized outside firm. An administrative charge of 40 cents per pay period is deducted from the amount deferred.

Additional information may be obtained from Mel Marquardt at Ext. 6593.

Electrical and Radio Dept. keeps power flowing

Each time a message is voiced over a division PA system, a bus vacuum goes on, or an operator warms his lunch in a microwave oven, the credit for supplying the "juice" goes to RTD's Electrical and Radio Department.

Headquartered at Division 2, Jack Walker, Assistant Superintendent of Communications Systems, supervises a continually-busy staff of electricians and radio specialists who keep the District's communications and electronic apparatus in top working order.

Recording the District's Board of Directors meetings, repairing the closed circuit TV cameras overseeing cash counting, or replacing the floodlights at each yard are just a few of the diverse tasks handled by the department's 10 electricians. The opening of the new Division 7 kept much of this crew busy for days on end.

"Anything with wires we maintain," Walker said. "That is, all the electrical equipment at all RTD-owned properties—the divisions, terminals, stations, ticket offices and much of the main building."

The employees report for work each weekday at 7:30 a.m. Most of them then travel to the various locations involved. But at least one electrician remains at Division 2 to do small tool and appliance repairs, and another employee is stationed at the South Park Shops.

Handling high voltage equipment and climbing ladders present the danger of electrical shock and falls.

The work falls into two basic categories: responding to emergencies or "priority" jobs and performing preventive maintenance. Emergencies would include any power failures connected with bus washing, fueling or a division's operation, air conditioning malfunctions during hot weather, or impaired security alarms.

When they're out on priority assignments, they also review and perform routine maintenance like changing air conditioning filters,

motor circuits or washers. So the workload never eases.

Another essential link in District operations is radio communications. The nine radio communication technicians working under Walker are responsible for some 100 supervisory and 600 bus radios. In addition, they maintain 21 widely-scattered base stations that transmit the signals between the Dispatch Center and all District vehicle and bus radios.

Walker . . . remembers a time when the workload was less demanding and the equipment less complicated.

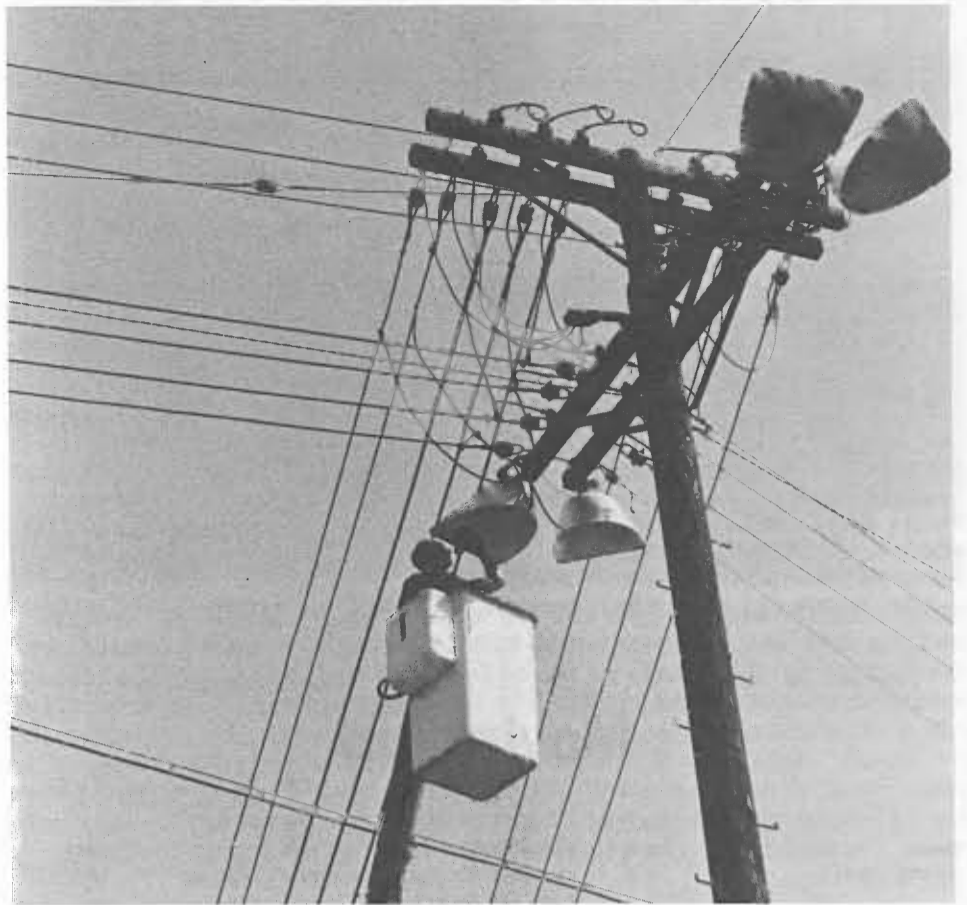
The work locations for these employees also vary, as bus radio repairs are performed at the divisions. But most supervisory vehicle radios not working up to par are brought into the radio shop to be fixed or replaced.

The work of both an electrician and radio specialist can be hazardous. Handling high voltage equipment and climbing ladders present the danger of electrical shock and falls, so special safety clothing and constant vigilance are required of the electricians. The radio technicians servicing the base stations located in the local mountains—some as high as 6,000 feet—face snowstorms and rough working and driving conditions.

But besides safety requirements, both types of employees face another responsibility—that of continually learning new facets of their job.

Walker, who has worked in this department since 1964, remembers a time when the workload was less demanding and the equipment less complicated. But in a world relying more and more on sophisticated electronic components and instantaneous communications, the range of technical expertise needed is growing.

"You cannot become stagnant," he said. "You must keep abreast of new equipment, new digital systems and circuits. There's always something new."



Electrician Bill Heffler changes lights at Division 2

Recreation news:

Santa plans division visits

Christmas cheer and holiday merriment will be spread throughout the District during the week of Christmas as Santa Claus, his helpers and top RTD management pay special holiday visits to each division. Santa's tour is planned to coincide with the Christmas parties being organized by the division managers.

All employees are encouraged to bring their families to the festivities because the District's Santa Claus will be giving away candy and other goodies to the children. In addition, there will be drawings for top prizes for the employees and their households. To be eligible for the drawing, each employee is asked to bring in a toy to their division for donation to the Toys for Tots campaign. The employee will then receive a ticket on which to write his or her badge number and deposit it in the box. Upon Santa's arrival at the party, the drawing will be held, the winners announced, and the prizes distributed.

Don't miss the holiday fun, refreshments and gifts. More details on the parties and the timing of Santa's visit will be available from the division managers soon.

To continue the festive spirit, on New Year's Eve the Recreation Department has arranged a night in romantic Avalon on Catalina Island that will surpass last year's event. The merrymakers are scheduled to leave San Pedro at 7 p.m. via Catalina Island Cruises and then depart Catalina at 1:30 a.m. for the return trip home.

The celebration on the island will feature dancing to the music of Tracy Wells' 18-piece orchestra, "That Big Band," inside the Casino Ballroom until 1 a.m. There'll be party favors, noise makers and balloons to welcome in 1978.

In addition, there will be a lavish champagne buffet breakfast served at midnight, complete with eggs, bacon, sausages, ham, rolls, coffee, fresh fruit and champagne. The price for this gala celebration is \$23.60 per person.

To beat the post-holiday blues, a full week's vacation in Mazatlan beginning January 10 is being offered. The \$295.00 base price covers non-stop air service, accommodations at the El Cid Hotel, and free golf and tennis lessons. Because time is running out, reservations should be made immediately with the Recreation Department.

In a last-minute development, the Recreation Department has been fortunate in obtaining 31 tickets to the Kings Buffalo Hockey Game on Thursday, December 15 at the Inglewood Forum. These are \$8 tickets being offered to RTD personnel for just \$6 each on a first come, first served basis. Due to this unusual offer, interested employees and retirees should contact the Recreation Department immediately.

The District's Second Annual Las Vegas Discount Trip to Las Vegas, priced at just \$29.50 per person, was especially popular this year. Tickets sold out well in advance of the cutoff date. On December 16, five buses will carry the 200 employees and guests for a two-day, two-night stay at the Fremont and Stardust hotels.

As soon as the snow begins falling in abundance in the Sierras, the Recreation Department plans to organize a trip for all RTD skiing enthusiasts. Keep your eye on the Recreation Department bulletin board for updates.

(Continued on page 10)



Inside the radio shop, Walker (right) watches while Joe Salazar repairs a time clock

Schedule changes

Welcome aboard

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began
Aguilar, Luis Eduardo	3303	Mechanic B	10/21/77
Asuncion, Lourdes Cruz	7100	Accountant	11/1/77
Diaz, Ovidio	3303	Mechanic B	10/19/77
Forrest, Mike Hector	3307	Mechanic B	10/28/77
Greene, Thomas Albert	3303	Mechanic B	10/31/77
Hall, Ronald John	7200	Systems Analyst	10/12/77
Mitchell, Claude Norris	2207	Mechanic B	10/29/77
Moore, Jr., David P.	3307	Mechanic B	10/27/77
Osburn, Robert Matthew	7200	Systems Analyst	10/12/77
Rodriguez, Elias Daniel	3303	Mechanic B	10/17/77
Schoenberg, Allen Stanley	3307	Mechanic B	10/10/77
Sullivan, Judith A.	7200	Senior Systems Analyst	11/7/77

Moving up

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Date
Adams, John I.	3208	Div. Disp. Ex. Asst. Div. Transp. Mgr. to Asst. Div. Transp. Mgr.	10/2/77
Bables, Jr., Walter	3207	Div. Disp. Ex. Asst. Div. Transp. Mgr. to Asst. Div. Transp. Mgr.	10/2/77
Bayliss, Jack	3201	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Brown, Delbert L.	3207	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Carlson, LeRoy M.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Cosner, Laurence	3209	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Coward, Jr., Edgar L.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Downing, Legustus A.	3334	Road Janitor to Road Janitor Leadman	10/1/77
Falicki, James	3207	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Gibbons, Irvy L.	3298	Radio Dispatcher to Chief Radio Dispatcher	10/30/77
Gonzales, William N.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Gray, Ralph	3215	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Haynes, Marie T.	9100	Secretary II to Secretary III	10/24/77
Heberling, Robert	3215	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Horton, Jackson	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Kikuta, Bruce Y.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Larrea, Rafael M.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Lawrence, Frederick H.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Martin, Billy F.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Miley, Brenda	5050	Information Clerk to Inf. Cl. Ex. Super.	10/9/77
Morrison, Lonnie J.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Murray, John E.	3208	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Peralta, Louis A.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Ramirez, Pedro F.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Robinson, Fred	3212	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Sandoval, Marco A.	3303	Utility A to Utility A Leadman	10/2/77
Shuffer, Robert D.	3218	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Smith, Richard	3209	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Torres, John R.	3201	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Torres, Joshua C.	3201	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Tucker, William J.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Vaillancourt, David J.	3208	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Velasquez, John	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Verania, Benny B.	3314	Mechanic B to Mechanic A	10/16/77
Wick, Robert G.	3399	Sup. Shops & Auto Eqp. to Supt. Maint. Divs.	10/13/77
Woods, Jr., Alonzo S.	3210	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77
Wright, Jr., Ernest E.	3218	Operator to Op. Ex. Div. Disp.	10/17/77

Retired

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Damron, William S.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 3/15/77	6/8/44	10/26/77
Harris, Frank E.	3209	Operator	12/10/41	10/18/77
Hess, Emory Jackson	6201	Former Gen. Ticket Clk. Transferred to Ind. Leave 9/4/77	10/15/66	10/16/77

In memoriam

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Burchett, Fletcher T.	3399	Former Clerk Retired 9/26/42	10/8/77
Copithorne, Walter R.	3203	Former Operator Retired 5/17/72	10/9/77
Gore, Valentine W.	3204	Former Operator Retired 6/1/53	10/17/77
Sanders, Ralph E.	3215	Former Operator Retired 10/13/56	10/14/77
Vasher, Jr., "LC"	3206	Operator	11/1/77



DIVISION 3-10 TEAM (upper row, from left): Ansel Rodgers; John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations; Winston Fisher; Phillip Platamura; Michael Trotter; Bernard Cota; Lynwood Stevenson; Dave Bautista; Jessie Garcia; Jim Cenderelli, Division Manager. (Second row, from left): Jack Storey, Assistant Division Manager; David Young; Evon Lyons; Hector Hernandez; Earl Cobbs; Benny Crosby; Preston Banks. (In front): William Jackson and Jack Gilstrap, RTD General Manager.

Close finish in softball playoff

The RTD softball championship playoff on Sunday, November 6, pitting Division 3-10 against Division 7, turned out to be a tense, exciting game right up to the very finish.

Through the end of the third inning, Division 3-10 retained the lead with a 5 to 1 score. Then Division 7 made a comeback with four runs, evening out the score. It stayed tied until the ninth inning, when Division 3-10 Operator Michael Trotter drove in the winning run and Operator Phil Platamura made it to home base, resulting in a final 6 to 5 score.

Devoted family members and division friends cheered from the sidelines at Whittier Narrows Diamond 1. The weather, brisk and windy, had dried the field from the previous day's rain.

Following the championship playoff, a silver division trophy was awarded to Division 3-10, along with individual trophies to the team members of both Division 7 and 3-10 and other trophies to the two team managers.

In addition, Most Valuable Player trophies were awarded Operators Phil Platamura, third baseman, and Preston Banks, catcher.

The playoffs began on October 16, with Division 3-10 defeating Division 15 and Division 7 bringing down Division 4-5 during the first games.

William Jackson, Division 3-10 team manager, described this year's competition as "very tough." In last year's winter playoffs, his division emerged as the undefeated champions, boasting a 15 to 0 record.



DIVISION 7 TEAM (upper row, from left): Wilkens; Thomas Isaacs; Dennis Bainbridge; Mike Meredith; John Venable; William Fredrick; Michael Walden; Edward Edmondson; Leon Winston. (Bottom row, from left): Rondy Harris; Walter Bowman; Phillip Samuels; Reiichi Nickleberry; Anthony Washington; Will Evanston; George Williams; Carl Motley; Gilstrap.

Off-hour pursuits

Are you into hang gliding? Underwater photography? Raising Doberman pinschers? Staining glass windows? District employees with an unusual or interesting hobby or skill are invited to fill out the card below and return it to Headway, Location 32, via company mail for possible future feature story coverage in the "Layover Zone."

Name: _____
 Badge No.: _____ Work location: _____
 Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____
 My hobby is: _____

Graduation ceremony marks a happy day

November 7 was a special day for six RTD employees, marking their graduation from the Mechanic Training Program. Calvin Carpenter, Johnnie Grayson, Robert Hillard, George Rodriguez, Philip Rodriguez and Jose Ruiz received certificates and congratulatory messages during the ceremony at the downtown headquarters building.

Among those present for the occasion were Jack Gilstrap, General Manager; George Heinle, Manager of Operations; Jerry Long, President, Amalgamated Transit Union; Jerry Premo, Executive Director, Transportation Commission; Byron Lewis, Director of Personnel; Robert Wick, Superintendent of Maintenance Divisions; and Earl Morey, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor I and also the program's instructor. All of them praised the graduates for their hard work and dedication.

Each employee had elevated himself from a bus service position to mechanic C by successfully completing both phases of the in-depth program.

Each employee attended three-hour classes twice a week for 22 weeks to gather mechanical knowledge of tools, maintenance manuals, electrical and fuel systems, pneumatics, hydraulics, and components such as the clutch, transmission and brakes. Films and displays were used to reinforce classroom instruction, and five written tests measured the trainees' progress.

The other portion of the program is on-the-job training, in which the students were assigned to work with a mechanic A for 40 hours a week for 16 weeks. Evaluation of their work was made weekly.

Students participate in the classroom portion of this program on their own time, in addition to their regular work assignments. The program is offered yearly on a rotating evening/daytime basis to permit qualified, interested maintenance utility As to take advantage of this employment advancement opportunity.



At the graduation (from left): Long, Heinle, Morey, Hillard, Ruiz, Grayson, Carpenter, G. Rodriguez, P. Rodriguez, Gilstrap

Layover zone:

Maguire's tiny tree-tending takes no small talent

In the adventure tale, "Gulliver's Travels," there was a world where everything was miniature: the landscape and the people.

Harry Maguire, Senior Staff Assistant in Transportation, spends his weekends almost like a giant in a tiny forest. His favorite pastime is bonsai—the art of raising midsize versions of existing plants or shrubs, such as redwood trees fully grown at three feet of height.

"Some people have the idea they're funny, weird trees," he remarked. "Actually, you create in miniature what's found in nature" by "balanced pruning of the tops and roots" and other special methods to dwarf their growth.

Bonsai are grown outdoors in a pot, with the final product averaging between four and 40 inches tall. "You can work with anything that will take drastic pruning and whose leaves will miniaturize," he explained.

The most common bonsai involve black pine or juniper. More advanced possibilities are elms, maples, beech and hemlock. Some

bonsai enthusiasts get into pyracantha, an exotic Eurasian evergreen with thorns and brilliant red berries.

Bonsai plants are not only smaller, but they can survive much longer, Maguire said. There are some living bonsai over 700 years old, while the same tree ordinarily growing in a forest wouldn't live past a couple of centuries.

The hobby takes continual monitoring, watering, wiring, pruning and fertilizing. His wife maintains the plants while he's at work and his neighbors are entrusted with the assignment when the couple vacation.

Bonsai began in China over 1,000 years ago, was later refined by the Japanese, and has recently spread in popularity in the U.S.

Maguire got involved with the hobby nine years ago when he wandered into a local arboretum, saw a bonsai demonstration and "was hooked." He studied the techniques under a bonsai in-



"ALOHA" WAS THE PASSWORD at the Los Angeles International Airport on October 14 when over 100 District employees and their spouses and guests boarded a Continental DC-10 bound for Hawaii. The group took advantage of a RTD-arranged low price of \$299 per person (based on double occupancy) price covering round trip air fare, accommodations at the Napualani Hotel, transfers, tips, welcome breakfast and more. "Terrific," "I can't wait to go back," and "Thank you for the best vacation ever" were just a few of the vacationers' enthusiastic comments. Keep an eye on the Recreation Department bulletin boards for similar trips in the future.

December's Management Forum to present insider's account of BART

The inside story behind the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) will be revealed by one of its alumnus. On Wednesday, December 7, 1977 from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m., George McDonald, RTD Manager of Planning and Marketing, will be the guest speaker at the Management Forum in the downtown headquarters building, second floor, board room.

Using slides and personal commentary, McDonald will focus on the development and implementation of BART's rapid rail system. Four miles of that system lie beneath the San Francisco Bay in a modern, underwater tube.

The Forum audience will not only find out about BART's basic planning and engineering concepts, but McDonald will also reveal how this multi-million dollar transit agency coped with a \$150 million construction deficit. And he'll talk about the mysterious "sunken treasures" unearthed during the tube's construction.

Other highlights of the December presentation will be slides of the Market Street subway groundbreaking. On that day, thousands of San Francisco youngsters crowded onto Market Street to participate in BART's historic "dig-in."

structor and plans to teach it after his retirement.

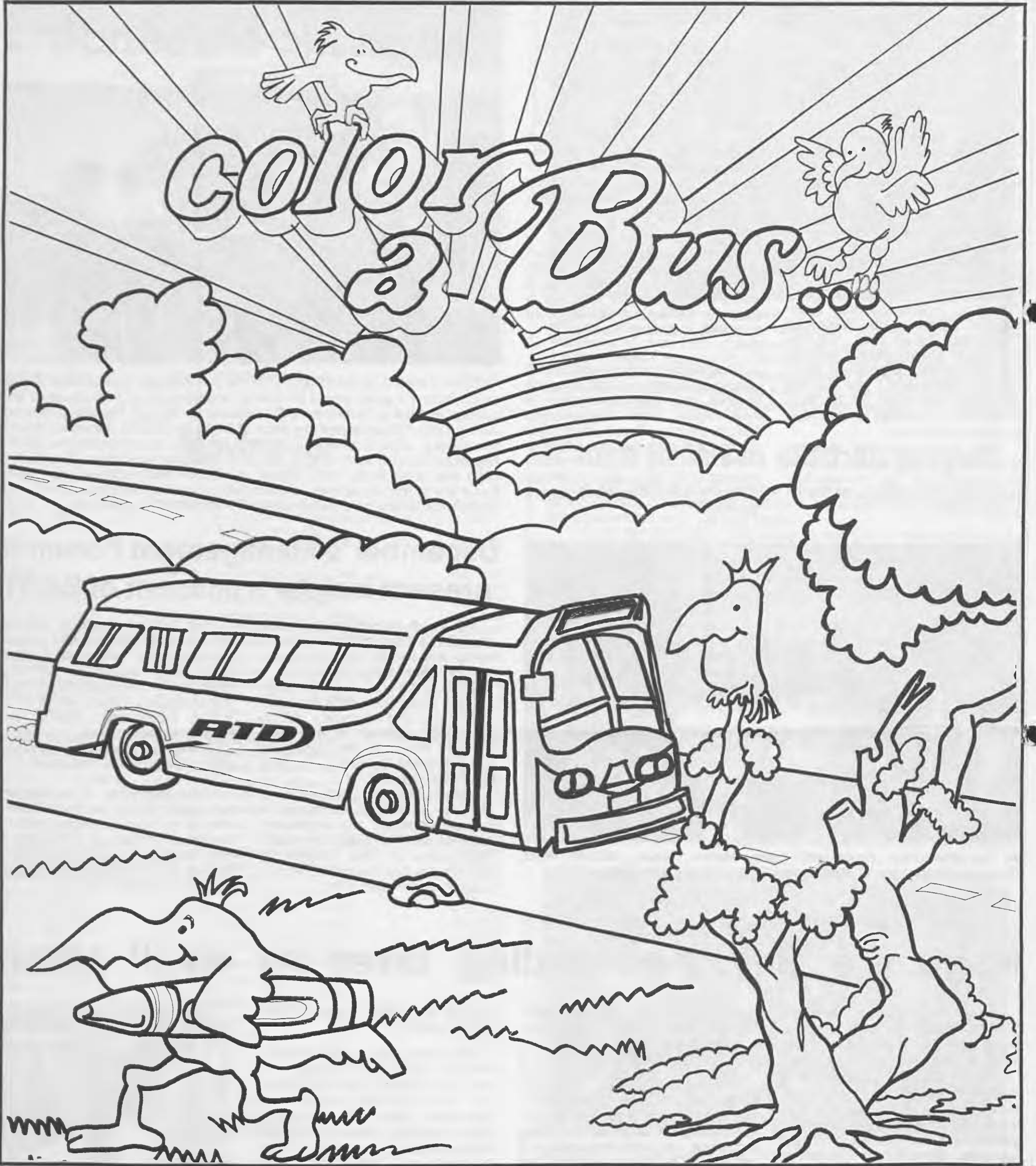
The hobby takes great patience. "There's no instant bonsai," he said. For example, one of 35 plants he's now cultivating at home is a Japanese dwarf elm, presently three years old, three inches high and has leaves less than 1/32nd of an inch big. "I'll never see it done in my lifetime," he said, predicting it will take about 50 years and will stretch three feet tall upon completion.

Another unusual aspect is there's no instant recognition or reward. While there are numerous local clubs and a showing each year, the purpose is simply to share their interest and obtain critical judgments. "It's kind of low key," he said. "There are no prizes or ribbons. The satisfaction comes from within."

But Maguire likes the continual challenge. "When you're done with a painting, you stand back and admire it. That's it. With bonsai, you're never done."



ALMOST LIKE A GIANT tending a tiny forest, Harry Maguire, Senior Staff Assistant in Transportation, has a unique weekend hobby. He's into bonsai—the Oriental art of raising miniature plants and shrubs in pots. Redwood trees, elms, maples and others can be stunted in their growth through special pruning techniques. Incidentally, the tree shown behind him isn't bonsai; this photo was taken in the downtown headquarters building.



District kids can color the way to fun prizes!

Hey, kids! If you're 14 years old or under and your mom or dad works for the Southern California Rapid Transit District, then you're invited to enter the RTD bus coloring contest and compete for fun prizes.

Entering is easy. Simply color the drawing with crayons, watercolors, chalk, felt tip pens or other art materials and send it to RTD with the entry blank. The address is RTD Recreation Department, 6th Floor, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 or have your

mom or dad return it via company mail to Recreation Department, Location 32.

There are three categories: those 6 years of age and under; those 7 through 11 years old; and those 12 through 14. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded for each age group.

First prize brings Disneyland ticket books for the winning artist in each age category and their parents. The second place winner in each category receives tickets for himself/herself and both parents to

visit Knott's Berry Farm. Tickets to Universal City Studios will be given each of the third place winners and their parents.

In addition, there will be one Grand Prize of a bicycle awarded for the best overall effort, taking into account originality, imagination, and the artist's age. The bicycle will be an appropriate model to suit the grand prize winner's size and age.

Professional art critics outside the District will judge the entries.

Only sons, daughters, stepsons,

stepdaughters, and grandchildren of District employees may enter. Only one entry per child.

Deadline for receipt of all entries is Monday, January 2, 1978. All drawings become the property of RTD and cannot be returned.

Following the judging, the winning entries will be displayed in the downtown headquarters building employee cafeteria.

Hurry and start coloring now. If you need extra copies of the drawing, call 972-6580.



Employees of month lauded

Dave Biehn, Donald Allison and Clarence Brumwell were the three District Employees of the Month cited most recently by the Board of Directors.

Biehn, Division 2 Maintenance Employee, has worked with coaches since 1960. In 1961 he transferred to Division 12 as Mechanic B on the second shift. His responsible and resourceful performance quickly got him promoted to Mechanic Double A Leadman at Division 2. His Maintenance Manager reported that Dave is always willing to put forward an extra effort in his work and his attendance record is superior.

Information Operator Don Allison, who began working for RTD in early 1976, has established a fine record in attendance and punctuality. In addition, the public often compliments this employee for his polite manner and patience in providing them with accurate information on RTD services.

Clarence Brumwell, Division 1 Operator, possesses an outstanding driving safety record with a 28-year safety award and has had no missouts in 26 years. Clarence has earned 60 merits—the highest possible total—and is noted for the courtesousness he consistently shows the public.

The awards ceremony brought together (in photo above, from left): Director George Takei; Robert Williams, Manager of Customer Relations; Allison; Frank Abrosion, Maintenance Manager, Division 2; and Biehn.

In photo below are pictured (from left): George Marsala, Division 1-11 Transportation Manager; Operator Brumwell; and Director Takei.



Coloring contest entry

Child's name: _____ Age: _____

Parent/employee name: _____

Badge no.: _____ Work location: _____

Home address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

Art materials used: _____

Operator's honesty rewarded

A British couple left Los Angeles with fonder memories of this city because of a RTD bus driver's honesty.

Operator Leo Knox of Division 4-5, an 11-year District employee, finished his run on the Number 779 Airport Express when he spotted a leather case on the coach's floor. Inside was a sizeable amount of English money.

The operator turned it into the division dispatcher. The attache' case wound up in the possession of Special Agent Kris Kristoffersen who determined that it contained approximately \$700 in English currency. Also inside were some personal papers indicating the

owner was Alfred Suffick of Waterlooville.

Kristoffersen called three local hotels before he located Suffick and his wife at the Beverly Hilton and informed them that their case and its contents had been turned in—completely intact.

The appreciative couple left a note for Operator Knox. "With grateful thanks for returning my briefcase" they wrote and enclosed a \$20 reward.

"They were very lucky that a person as honest as yourself found it," Kristoffersen said as he congratulated Knox. "Had a passenger or somebody else found it, it might not have been such a happy ending" for them.



Operator Knox (left) receives reward from Kristoffersen

Female now minding Div. 6 store

RTD recorded another "first" in equal job opportunities on November 7 when the first female storekeeper started work.

Suzanne Lerman, who's been a District employee for 3½ years, is now minding the store at Division 6. She keeps a running inventory of all parts, orders and dispenses them as needed, and does all the bookwork involved, besides supervising the stock shop clerks assisting her.

The biggest challenge, she forecast, is "learning all the parts

and where they go." Although her last position as stock shop clerk at Division 8 provided valuable training, each division runs its shop a little differently, she explained.

"I'm very pleased and happy to be here," she commented about her new promotion. But this isn't the first time she's pioneered sexual equality in job roles. Lerman said she was also the first fulltime female clerk at Division 8 Maintenance when she began there in July, 1976.



Lerman keeps the inventory in tiptop shape



TOASTMASTERS' OPEN HOUSE on October 19 brought together some 30 District employees—both Toastmasters members and potential members—to enjoy the hospitality and participate in the meeting. Toastmastering is an effective oral communication training program which can lead to self-growth and occupational advancement. Judy O'Donnell, Secretary II in Personnel and Administrative Vice President of the group (shown standing), delivers an extemporaneous speech. At the podium is John Tincher, Division 15 Dispatcher and Chairman of the organization's Membership Drive Committee.



Div. 15 party an unearthly scene

Witches, vampires, goblins and other horrible-looking creatures invaded Division 15 on Saturday night, October 29 as many operators, office personnel and their families took part in the Halloween celebration.

To start the festivities, a costume party was held, followed by a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared and served by Operator Betty Spadaccini and her two daughters. The meal was highlighted by the country singing of talented Division Dispatcher Richard Winstead and by Operator John Halyak who performed his

strongman feats and did fine impressions of famous actors. A very interesting and funny story was narrated by Operator Neil O'Brien.

Then for a bloodcurdling diversion, a fun house had been erected. Those participating were Operator Jim Byerley and his wife Lynn, Operator Joe Pryce, and Operator Janet Green. The credit for make-up and painting goes to Operator Vincent Vizzari.

Many of the merrymakers finished off the fun-filled night with a ride around the division yard in a double deck bus operated by Instructor Donald Cooper.



District employees harmonize

The festive mood and spirit of the winter holiday season wouldn't be complete without appropriate music. And with Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's just around the corner, RTD's current drive to organize instrumental and chorale groups among the ranks of its employees couldn't be more timely.

Evening practice sessions each Wednesday at Division 9's former Gas Company structure began on November 30 under the supervision of John Jackson, musical director whose professional experience includes coordination of local school, community and church musical groups.

He has been organizing musically-inclined RTD personnel according to their talents and interests into such groups as string

ensembles, bands and choirs. They'll then be featured at District awards ceremonies, company picnics, Little Theatre productions, and other events. The District is providing all necessary equipment except instruments.

Jackson emphasized that professional music experience isn't necessary to join—just genuine enthusiasm and a willingness to participate in a friendly group effort pooling musical abilities.

It's not too late to become involved, if you fill out the form below and return it immediately to Bill Weimer, Recreation Department, Location 32 or call Betty at Ext. 6580.

Singers, guitarists, tuba players... don't pass up this opportunity to make new friends and harmonize with RTD!

I'm interested in participating in an RTD music program.

Name: _____

Badge No.: _____ Work Location: _____

Instrument(s) Played: _____

I Own The Instrument(s): Yes _____ No _____

Vocal Range: _____

I Read Music: Yes _____ No _____

Best Days, Times to Meet: _____

Home Phone No.: _____

Ticket service with a lasting smile

The ticket mailings sent out by Isabelle Baca and Billie Garlick at the RTD ticket office in Hollywood are literally "all smiles." That's because these ticket clerks instituted a policy several years ago of stamping everything with a happy face and the wording, "Thank you for letting us help you."

Garlick explained that they purchased the stamps out of their own

pocket after deciding to give their correspondence with the public a more personal touch. Since then, many customers have conveyed their appreciation.

As one man noted, "I love this (happy face) on my envelope each month. I've met you gals and that expresses how you feel about customers and I'm sure how your customers feel about you."



THE LATEST AWARD to the division with the largest monthly percentage reduction in road calls went to Division 12. Three sets of tickets to Los Angeles Rams' games were given to Division 12 Maintenance: R. R. Olsen, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor I; In Song Kim, Mechanic B; and J. A. Van Houtan, Mechanic B. For Division 12 Transportation, the following operators' names were picked to receive a pair of tickets each: Richard Bunch, Ramon Pimentel, Floyd Lawrence, Moses Wilson, Joseph May, Warren Stockton, and Harley Haas. Pictured above conducting the drawing are (from left): Diane Moran, Associate Administrative Analyst; George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; and Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation.

Bus 'clean-up crew' puts shine in RTD image

If it's true that first impressions are lasting, then the work of the District's 359 utilities and service attendants who clean the buses and other RTD property every day becomes doubly important.

These employees pick up the discarded papers, scrape off the chewing gum, remove any graffiti, wipe the seats on every coach and occasionally fumigate the entire bus.

It's a comprehensive job, covering the buses from floor to ceiling. It also requires attention to minute details: shining the railings, wiping the windows and cleaning the stepwells—all very visible to the public.

But maintaining a coach's interior is just one phase of their job responsibilities. Some of these employees drive the buses through the bus washer, operate the vacuum, take care of refueling and checking the oil and water, and then park the coaches.

They're charged with the cleaning of all District vehicles—inside and out. They also keep the surrounding yard and maintenance pits and area clean.

In addition, their responsibilities include pulling the vaults out of the fareboxes for loading onto a vault

truck.

But perhaps the toughest assignment of all is steam cleaning the engines and parts. The employees who do this work must wear special protective clothing.

Over the years their tasks and methods of cleaning haven't altered greatly. The chief tools are mops, brooms, sponges, brushes and cleaning fluids. However, the District purchased three mobile mini-sweepers to clean the yards.

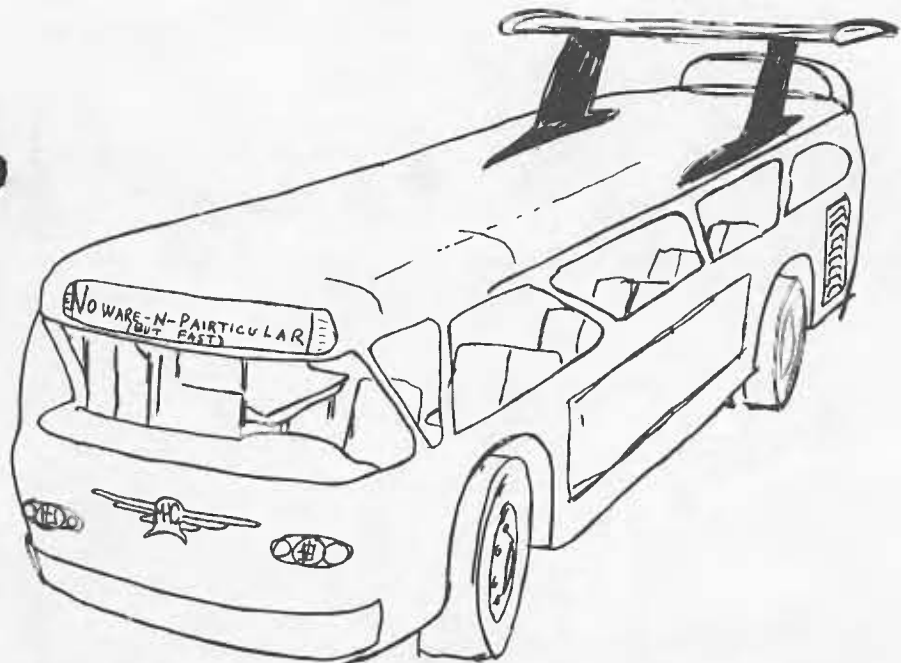
One more significant change has been a notable increase in the number of female employees in these classifications. Their performance, according to the maintenance managers, has been outstanding. Regardless of sex, the job takes perseverance, care, and hard physical work.

It's an around-the-clock operation, with the three shifts covering 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The clean-up crew's busiest hours follow the peak traffic, rush hours, when the buses are brought back for refueling, cleaning and whatever housekeeping is needed.

It's then that they take over, getting the buses back into shape in time for their next run.



Wiping the windows is just one small facet of Utility B Alice Robinson's job



The cartoon, drawn by Division 18 Operator Melvin Harrison, was sent in by his wife



Jesus Martinez, Maintenance Manager at Division 1-11, discusses equipment with Maria Vargas, Utility B



Dora Jackson, Utility B, takes care of hosing down the bus

Motion Picture Club's plans in focus

A dramatic film version of an operator's life, entitled "The Agony Of A Bus Driver," is underway by the Motion Picture Camera Club. Operator Donald Barnes, Club President, said they are actively seeking persons interested in any phase of motion picture production—writing, acting, lighting, sound or even clerical work—to participate in this and future film projects.

This organization of RTD employees meets at Barnes' home the

third Sunday of every month at 4536 Don Milagro Drive in Los Angeles.

At their September meeting, Toni Hill, wife of Kenneth Hill, Club Vice President, drew the lucky stub held by "Pumpkin" of San Jose who purchased the winning ticket for the gifts while on a weekend visit.

For more information on the club, upcoming raffles and application forms, Barnes can be reached at 213-296-8157.

MAKING HEADWAY

A very appropriate Father's Day present was given Division 3 Operator Albert D. Howard by his wife, Linda. It was a second son, Albert Donald Howard II, born on June 19. Albert claims he knew all along it was going to be a boy. The Howards' other son, Mathew, is 6.



Suzanne Onderco, 17-year-old daughter of Division 9 Operator Philip Onderco, recently received the Outstanding Dedicated Community Services Youth Award of El Monte. She holds a sergeant's rank in the Police Explorers for the El Monte Police Department, volunteers time at Hope House helping handicapped children, assists Santa Claus Inc. in providing toys for needy children, and helps at health centers. Suzanne plans to become a policewoman, according to her proud parents.

Division 5 Operator Tom Mitchell became a father for the first time on August 23 when his wife, Kathy, gave birth to Jaimie Anne. She weighed in at 8 lbs.

Operator Roy Townsend of Division 18 and his wife Theresa are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, Raishard Jamal, on September 1. They have another son, Roy "Gregory," age 6.

Division 10 Operator Cornelius L. Bradford and his wife Clarice will celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on December 25. The couple resides in Altadena.



FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS gathered around Harry Hoegeman, Equipment Maintenance Division Manager, last month to wish him well on his one-year trip to Germany as the official representative of the Articulated Bus Consortium for the inspection of buses made possible under an UMTA grant. Pictured here (upper row, from left) are: Sam Singer, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor II; Hoegeman; Earl Zwiebel, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance Divisions; and Robert Wick, Superintendent of Maintenance Divisions. Kneeling are Jim Thomason, Equipment Records/Stores Coordinator, and T. W. Tegtmeyer, Maintenance Manager.

Spread the good news!

Employee Name: _____
 Badge No.: _____ Work Location: _____
 Event: _____
 Date Occurred: _____ Place: _____
 Other Facts: _____

"Making Headway" is designed to publicize news about your personal achievements and those of your family, whether it concerns births, graduations, anniversaries, retirements, special awards or other accomplishments. Please use this card to forward such news to Madeleine Bickert, Editor, Headway, 6th Floor, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 or return via company mail to Headway, Location 32. Cartoons, photos and other contributions are also always welcome.

Recreation news

(Continued from page 3)

Later in the year, a 15-day vacation in Miami and the Caribbean aboard the fun ship Carnivale will be offered. Starting on September 15, 1978, seven days will be spent ocean cruising, with stops in St. Maarten in the Lesser Antilles, at St. Thomas in the Virgin Isles and in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The \$699 per person price (based on double occupancy) covers round trip air fare to and from Miami; seven nights' stay at a beachfront hotel and deluxe accommodations aboard the ship, port taxes; all meals, parties and shows on board the Carnivale; and more. Mark the date now for your vacation next year.

While the softball tournament is over, a number of other tournaments are planned. The District's domino competition is in progress and a pool tournament is scheduled to begin in early December. Moreover, basketball season is here with sign-ups to take place in January for the District's games and playoffs. Again, watch the bulletin board for notices.

More information on these events and trips is available from Betty at Ext. 6580.

Classified

- House with fabulous view. Yucaipa, on bus line. Two years old. Two bedroom, two bath. All electric kitchen, central air/heat. Living room with cathedral ceiling. Plush carpet/drapes. \$44,900. Telephone 213-244-0298 or 714-795-4764.

- One-year-old California King Snake, \$25.00. Call Bobbie at 213-979-2744.

- Brand new Whirlpool Trash Compactor, Harvest Gold color. Retail for \$260.00, selling for \$190.00. Call 213-281-4861 days or evenings.

- Baby car bed, new, \$15.00. Baby car bed and sheets, new, \$15.00. Baby high chair, \$5.00. Color console TV, maple cabinet, very good condition, \$150.00. Call 213-968-0962 in early evenings.

- '56 T-Bird. Automatic, power steering, power brakes. Rebuilt engine, new interior and tires and paint. Best offer. Call Bob at 213-547-9473 after 5 p.m.

- Mini Doxies, AKC registered. One black female, two red males, 8 weeks. \$150.00. Telephone 213-676-3596 between 1 and 9 p.m.

- Two wide tires mounted on aluminum mag wheels. Excellent condition. Will fit Pinto, Vega or any other small car. Daytona Sport 60-13. \$80.00. Call 213-982-4874.

- Pedigreed fancy tan rabbits. Show and meat stock. Also have bunnies for pets. Different prices. Call 213-982-4874 during day.

- Pillow-couch, combination colors, striped pattern. Solid wood frame, easy to disassemble and reassemble. Two years old, good condition. Fixed price: \$300.00. Call Denni at 213-899-6286 after 4:30 p.m.

- 1974 Motor Home, 23 ft. (894 NWD). Fully self-contained, sleeps four. Sightseer III (By Travco), 19,000 miles. 440 Dodge engine, 4-K Generator, 13,500 BTU Roof Air, Roof rack and ladder, seven ft. roof storage box. Aux. gas tank. \$9,500.00 Phone 213-965-4277.

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