



HEAD



WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 4, Number 8, September 1977

Div. 12 operator saddles up for National Rodeo

Operator Howard Brenchley's destination on October 11 won't be his usual line out of Division 12. Instead he and his wife Constance will be in Atlanta, Georgia, where he'll represent the RTD in the Second Annual National Rodeo Competition.

Brenchley emerged as the District's 1977 Rodeo finalist during the September 11 competition at the Santa Anita Race Track. His final score of 685 points, out of a possible 730, placed him ahead of second place Carlos Baez of Division 9 with 676 points, followed closely by third runner-up John Downes of Division 11 with 672 points.

In accordance with national contest rules, the 14 contestants that day had to negotiate their buses through a series of difficult maneuvers such as the serpentine, offset street, rear duals clearance, right turn, left turn, right hand reverse, diminishing clearance and passenger stops. Brenchley said he found the rear duals clearance, lightly marked with tennis balls, to be the toughest.

The operators were judged not only for their accuracy and driving

skill, but for the smoothness of the ride and their speed in completing the course. Points were deducted for failing to sound the horn when backing up and similar safe driving rules.

Personnel from the RTD, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, CALTRANS, and the Department of Motor Vehicles, positioned throughout the course, rated their performance.

In addition, many District employees generously volunteered their time to act as scorekeepers, tabulators and runners to insure smooth, quick proceedings.

Talented John Halyak, Division 15 operator, served as the entertaining commentator as the contestants took turns competing. Then during the mid-point intermission, RTD General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap delivered a welcome message to the many family members and other well-wishers who came to cheer their favorite operators.

Also on hand were Michael Roberts, television star from
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RTD ROADEO WINNER Howard Brenchley (center) is congratulated by (from left): Jack Gilstrap, general manager; Jack Walsh, general superintendent of transportation; Ted Brennen, superintendent of divisions; and Ralph Costello, Division 12 transportation manager.

Public makes note of exceptional employee actions



THOUGHTFULNESS BEYOND the call of duty has won Operator Charles Higgins (left) of Division 3-10 some permanent friends among the public and helped him earn the Operator of the Month award recently. After he learned that RTD customer Gerald Howard (right) was about to become a senior citizen very shorty, Higgins arranged for a surprise birthday celebration for Howard in conjunction with his own regular passengers. "I am still excited about this very special birthday that an RTD employee made so pleasant for me," Howard said.

It's a well accepted fact about human nature that people are quicker to complain than compliment. So it means even more when someone takes the time to express his or her thanks for exceptional service. And each month the public does just that for the RTD, commending bus drivers and information clerks for their on-the-job performance.

Many of the letters and calls mention basic qualities like politeness, patience and a helpful attitude. Tom Horne, passenger services supervisor in Customer Relations, explained passengers especially notice the drivers' greeting, their response to questions, and their overall appearance. As one letter writer described an operator, "He wears his tie and hat even during these hot days we have been having. He just seems to shine."

Some passengers develop a sense of empathy with the drivers, sympathizing with their situation during hectic periods. Faced with a crowded bus, heavy traffic and a few rowdy teenagers on board, another letter writer remarked, "This man is unrivaled in my opinion as an example of self control that I envy."

While the information clerks don't have face-to-face contact

with the public, the people they assist appreciate the same friendly attitude that's easily transmitted through a telephone. "Patience, courtesy and exact directions" are the keys, said Barbara Hagen, chief of telephone operations. Especially valued, she added, are employees who volunteer extra information that the caller hadn't realized he or she needed.

Sometimes the simplest effort can make a big difference. A despondent job-seeker, newly arrived in Los Angeles and unable to find work, boarded a bus and was greeted with a "big broad smile and a warm hello" from the driver.

That passenger wrote, "Looking at him . . . greeting other passengers with such sincerity, warmth and affection, made me feel I'm important. He made me realize that this is the United States, that this is the place where people still care about people. He gave me courage to face life."

Occasionally, unusual circumstances arise and RTD employees have gone beyond the "call of duty" in helping the public. An RTD operator spotted a disabled school bus stalled on a freeway.

"He voluntarily stopped and
(Continued on page 3)

District policies, goals explained during Division 9 rap session

RTD policies, concerns and goals were defined on August 22 at Division 9 during another of a continuing series of RTD Management Team Rap Sessions.

George Heinle, manager of operations, led the informal question-answer exchange among both the transportation and maintenance division managers and rank-and-file employees. He was assisted by George Wells, general superintendent of maintenance and equipment; Jack Walsh, general superintendent of transportation; Ted Brennen, superintendent of divisions; and Bill Weaver, director of safety.

Among the topics brought up by the operators during the mid-morning meeting were the new student passes, the running time on certain lines, busway violations by carpools, work attendance policies, and layovers.

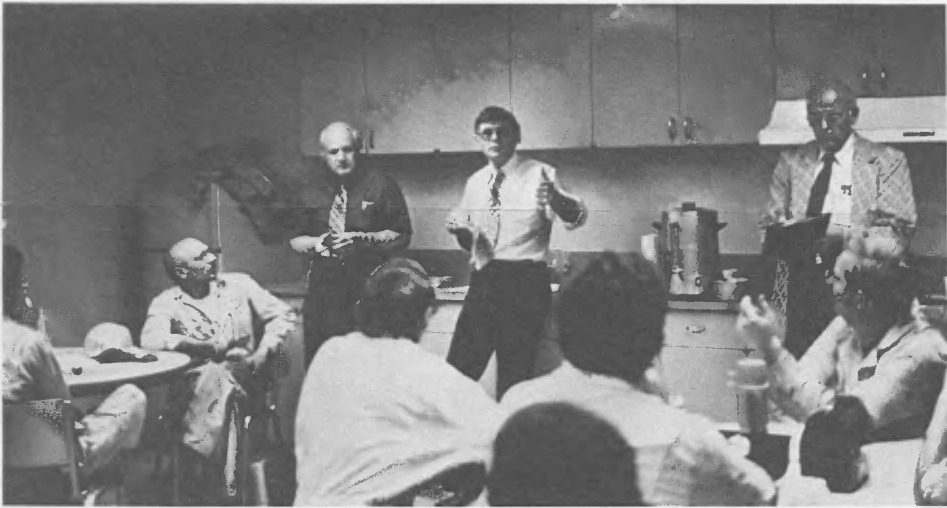
In the early afternoon, the rap sessions moved to the maintenance division, where questions were answered about the rebuilding of some divisions, the District's promotion policy, shift assignments, road calls and in-

spection, and the timing of similar meetings in the future.

The rap sessions began in early 1974 "to communicate with the employees and find out what their thoughts and ideas are," Heinle explained. In many cases, face-to-face discussions can be more advantageous and productive than written communications, he added.

The response has been "excellent." Heinle cited examples where valuable employee suggestions were put into work, including the recognition of a bus's emergency flashers as a sign of distress to fellow operators or changes in the location of a bus stop. "These are specific things that only the employee working day in and day out would know about."

Another benefit is that the rap sessions give all employees, particularly new ones, a clearer picture of the District's policies and operations, he said. As a result, when they encounter comments and questions about the RTD during social situations, they're better prepared to provide informed answers.



George Heinle (center) responds to questions from Maintenance

Sports broadcaster speaks out

A fascinating behind-the-scenes look at a news and sports broadcaster's job was provided by Cleve Hermann of radio station KFWB-AM.

The 59-year-old communications veteran was guest speaker at the RTD's Management Forum on Wednesday, September 21 in the Board Room.

Spirited, outspoken and unafraid of the controversial, he commented on a variety of subjects at the Forum, including re-vitalization of downtown Los Angeles, nightlife and women's liberation. "I don't like to be told whom I should respect. I like to open doors for women and all those good things," he remarked.

Hermann started in the communications field at age 14 as a newspaper re-write man and reporter for the Herald Express (now the Herald Examiner).

In 1940 he was editor of the University of Southern California's newspaper, The Daily Trojan. Then in 1951 he moved to the broadcast industry, becoming a sports writer for KNBC-TV.

His career as KFWB sports

writer was launched in 1957, when the station had a music and news format. KFWB switched to all news reporting in 1968.

In addition to his sports commentaries, Hermann's daily emotion-filled news features are known to listeners throughout the Southland. These one-minute segments, "At Large In Los Angeles," spotlight human interest items around the city.

"I work eight days a week, 26 hours a day," he jested. Actually he's on the job each weekday by 10 a.m., and if things aren't wrapped up by 8 or 9 p.m., he'll continue working through the night.

The RTD Management Forum concept started in October, 1976 to provide an entertaining and informative stimulus for both manpower and management during the workday.

Recent Forum programs have been presented by TWA, California Institute of Technology, the League of Women Voters, City Attorney Burt Pines' Office, and the Association of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Employees of Month praised

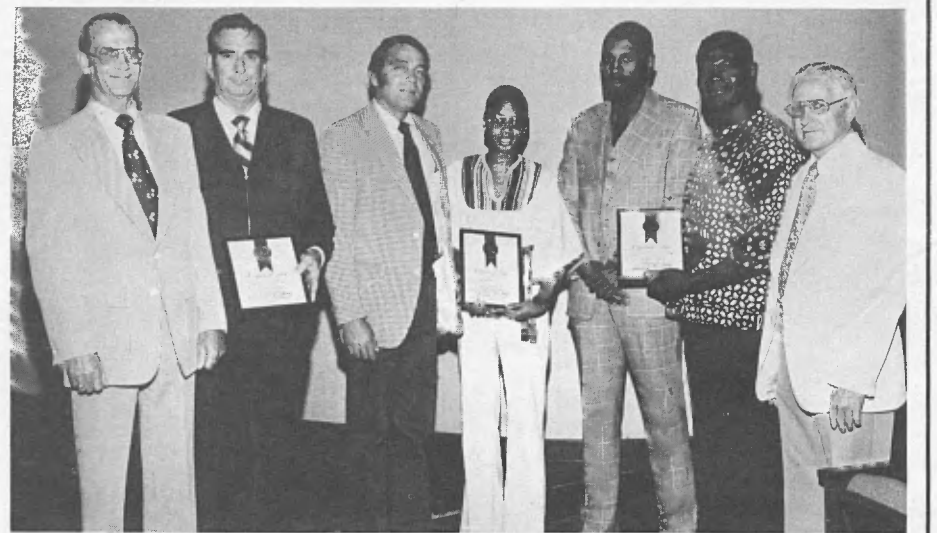
Continuing their tradition of recognizing outstanding on-the-job performance, the Board of Directors commended three District employees during July.

Jordan G. Holland of Division 7 was selected as Operator of the Month because during the 17 years he's been with RTD, he's received 39 accommodations—a remarkable record. Holland acquired the nickname "Ace" during his high school days and it's stuck with him in his job as an "ace" operator with an excellent safety and work attendance record.

Honored as Information Operator of the Month was Gregory Pitts. Many callers have complimented him for his telephone service, mentioning qualities like quick and cheerful answers, courteousness and patience. Pitts has also established an outstanding attendance record in the two years he's been a District employee.

Clevester Young of Division 1 gets along extremely well with fellow workers and is always willing to lend a helping hand. He also does outstanding air conditioning and repair work and is quick to take care of any other necessary trouble-shooting. His superior 32-year service record earned him the honor of being Maintenance Employee of the Month.

Shown here at the awards presentation are (from left): Director George Brewster; Robert Williams, manager, Customer Relations; Pitts; Earl Zwiebel, assistant superintendent of maintenance divisions; Young; Gus Lopez, transportation manager, Division 7; and Holland.



June's Employees of the Month

The three Employees of the Month honored by the Board of Directors during June were Charles Higgins, Leslie Mae Smith and Caldwell Manley.

Operator Higgins of Division 3-10 was honored for his safe driving record, absence of miss-outs and his ready smile and pleasant attitude in dealing with the public. His friendliness often brings letters of commendation from his passengers. Higgins has been an RTD employee since 1974.

Smith, Information Operator of the Month, has consistently exceeded District standards in the accuracy of the information she provides, the number of people she helps, and her courteousness in answering their questions. Many callers she has assisted have expressed their gratitude to the department she ably serves.

Manley, Division 15 mechanic, was selected as Maintenance Employee of the Month because of his dependability and the quality of his body, engine and electrical repair work. In his spare time, Manley also serves as volunteer bus driver for the Senior Center of Pasadena.

Participating in the monthly employee salute are (from left): Jim Cenderelli, acting transportation manager, Division 3-10; Higgins; Director Donald Gibbs; Smith; Robert Williams, manager, Customer Relations; Manley; and Clifford Lawson, maintenance manager, Division 15.

Public

(Continued from page 1)

took aboard our students," the school official reported. "They were taken to the next off-ramp where they could be in safety. This kind of humanistic effort to help care for our children is very much appreciated."

In another instance, a rider commented on the quick action and composure of an operator who managed to miss hitting a man who had suddenly sprinted in front of the moving bus. "He handled himself so well I thought someone should know how marvelous one of your drivers acted during what could have very well been a disaster."

Similar letters arrive each month, praising drivers who assist the elderly or handicapped in getting in or out of the bus, who volunteer spare change to a customer caught short, who wait a few extra moments for people still running to the stop, or who personally contact worried passengers to tell them their lost wallet or suitcase has been found on the bus.

It's hard to profile the com-

plimentary letter writer or caller, although women tend to praise slightly more than men, Horne reported. Some are frequent letter writers, bringing lists of bus operators' names along with their comments on the service. One RTD customer writes faithfully each month. While the letters are unsigned, the large, child-like printing is instantly recognized.

Copies of these letters are forwarded to the employee's immediate supervisor, who notifies the individual cited. They're also entered into that employee's permanent record. And they're used in selecting an "Employee of the Month" to honor.

But on a broader scale, an employee who reaches out performs a great public relations role for the entire RTD.

The benefits can extend onto a personal level, too, building up friendships among the public. As one RTD passenger noted, "his" driver, after being absent from that line, was welcomed back one morning with "unbeholden joy. After a seemingly endless three months, his absence was keenly felt by all of us regulars."

Red-letter days



WEDDING BELLS rang for Ricki Fehr, typist in the Scheduling Dept., when she exchanged vows with Alan Vister on September 11. Ricki joined RTD in February, 1975, originally working in the PAX Department. Her new husband, a former RTD employee, also worked in PAX. Here being feted by her co-workers at a surprise bridal shower luncheon are (from left): Ambrosia Suma, Accounting; Kris Simonson, Scheduling; Maria Zurita, Transportation; Maureen Esquiroz, Transportation; Ricki; Scarlett Chien, Scheduling; Jean Powell, Scheduling; and Nancy Nordine, Scheduling.

RTD's vital statistics

Moving up

Name	Div/Dept.	Classification	Date
Baca, Michael G.	7300	Jr. Stock Clerk to Stock Clerk	8/8/77
Earles, Mary H.	5000	Information Clerk Extra Supv. to Supv. of Tel. Opers.	9/1/77
Farley, John R.	8000	Schedule Analyst to Tran. Plng. Analyst I	8/3/77
Henderson, Mildred J.	5000	Info. Clk. Ex. Supv. to Supv. of Tel. Opers.	8/28/77
Hernandez, Bill E.	6200	Truck Driver Clerk to Field Representative	8/8/77
Schwent, George D.	7300	Stock Clerk to Shipping Clerk	8/8/77
Walker, Michael J.	7300	Shipping Clerk to Traveling Storekeeper	8/8/77

Retired

Name	Div./Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Andrade, Sr., George R.	3206	Operator	11/13/45	8/14/77
Carmichael, Jack L.	3399	Supt. of Maint. Divisions	6/8/36	7/31/77
Dowler, Ernest O.	3301	Mechanic "A"	11/1/45	8/3/77
Edmondson, Luther E.	3203	Div. Transportation Manager	1/3/47	8/2/77
Everett, Stephen H.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 6/5/77	4/11/60	9/2/77
Finley, Eugene L.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 7/15/77	1/17/42	8/22/77
Gekas, William C.	3209	Operator	9/18/47	8/12/77
Miller, Edward P.	3209	Operator	9/24/45	8/1/77
Snyder, Charlie	3306	Utility "A"	4/8/53	8/1/77
Stevens, Joseph J.	3209	Operator	6/23/48	8/1/77
Thompson, Willie D.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 4/13/77	8/6/46	8/7/77
Wolf, William H.	3500	Schedule Checker	8/28/45	8/13/77

In memoriam

Name	Div. Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Bishop, Victor E.	3314	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 6/1/69	8/4/77
Connolly, George E.	3209	Former Operator Retired 10/1/66	8/11/77
Fuller, Ronald A.	3209	Former Operator Retired 6/1/62	8/18/77
Gallas, Henry	3221	Former Trafficman Retired 1/18/74	8/30/77
Knaus, Adam	3302	Former Lineman Retired 10/1/47	7/23/77
McArthur, William D.	3314	Former Electrician Retired 6/16/45	8/25/77
McGovern, Donald R.	3500	Former Schedule Maker II Retired 3/29/74	8/8/77
McKittrick, James	3209	Operator	8/27/77
Rodriguez, Amador M.	3202	Former Operator Retired 3/10/72	8/27/77
Slegl, John C.	3308	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 1/2/72	8/28/77



PARENTHOOD IS just around the corner for Alvin and Pam Kelley, both information clerks, who are expecting their first child around Oct. 1. They say they'll welcome either a boy or a girl, but Alvin's parents, Harold Sr. and Ruth Kelley, both working in General Services, have five grandsons already so they're hoping this one's a girl. Shown here at a baby shower for the couple in August are (from left) Ruth; Dawn Adamson and Karen Lea, both information clerks; Brenda Miley, information supervisor; LaVern Kelley, information clerk and sister-in-law; Ruth Rogers, information clerk; Pam and Alvin. (LaVern's husband, Harold Kelley Jr., not shown, works in the RTD print shop.)



A DUAL RETIREMENT party on September 9 brought together RTD retirees and current Division 6 operators. Recipients of the celebration were Willie Thompson who completed 31 years in transportation service and George "Andy" Andrade with a 32-year record. Both retired last August. Willie said he's going to "take like easy" while George plans "a good, happy life with my fiancée." Preparing to delve into the two big cakes are (from left): George and fiancée, Irene Taylor; Ernie Bliss and William Miller, both RTD retirees also; and Willie.

Cash Counting: Some surprises amid dollars and dimes

Situated in the central Los Angeles area adjacent to a busy freeway is a single, square brick building. Aside from a lone window and loading dock in back, there are no signs or markings to distinguish it. To most passersby, it's unidentifiable and uninteresting. And that's exactly what the building's designers intended.

Within the structure, a highly fascinating, top security operation begins early each day. Literally tens of thousands of coins and paper currency are sorted out, counted and prepared for bank deposit.

Since 1969 when exact fare took effect, the RTD's cash counting section has been handling all the coins, bills and tickets dropped into all RTD bus fareboxes throughout the District.

The first phase of the process occurs when the bus pulls into the division for refueling. Its farebox is opened and the vault inside—containing all the money and other notes of value—is removed and secured onto a vault cart.

These carts, which can carry up to two tons, are then rolled into a RTD armored truck and driven to their downtown destination. When the truck backs into cash counting's loading dock, the vault carts must pass through two separate sets of electronically-controlled doors before they reach the building's main counting section.

Division 5 averages the most amount of money . . . Division 9 brings in the most tickets.

Inside, the pace quickens. The vaults are unlocked and their contents dumped out. Cash clerks quickly set aside the dollar bills while the remainders are fed into one of three giant, metal cash counting machines. Equipped with

a series of arched, black rubber hoses, the machines resemble a trio of deformed octopuses.

Within the machine, an air blower separates the tickets while the coins continue along a conveyor belt. The coins pass through a set of vibrating plates which sort the coins by diameter.

Dimes, nickels, quarters and pennies continue steadily along their routes, passing through the hoses into the counting heads. From there they drop into the appropriate bag. Silver dollars, fifty-cent pieces and tokens, which are much less numerous, are detoured into different bins and counted on spare machines.

As the cash clerks quickly learn, the old cliché about "dirty money" is very true.

The process is amazingly accurate and quick, requiring about 2½ minutes to fill a bag. It takes 5,000 pennies, 4,000 nickels, 10,000 dimes or 4,000 quarters to fill a single bag. Each one weighs between 34 and 50 pounds, depending upon the denomination of coins inside.

After the bag is full, it's removed, sealed, tagged and its weight checked. Then it's placed aside, ready for bank deposit.

The cash clerks count one division's receipts at a time. Division 5 averages the most amount of money, about \$30,000 or more on a weekday, reported Bob Miller, cash counting supervisor. Division 9 brings in the most tickets.

Throughout the process, comprehensive records are made of the number of vaults arriving, the division and bus they came from, who handled them and how much money was collected. The totals are re-verified by readings taken from the cash counting machine.

All the counting activity takes place inside a bullet-proof, heavily protected structure, equipped with intercoms and television monitors. A communication link-up to the police is also available.

When the employees report for work, they enter isolated dressing rooms to change into their pocketless uniforms. They're prohibited from wearing undergarments with pockets. No one leaves the premises during working hours; all breaks and lunches must be eaten inside the building's kitchen.

It's a seven-days-per-week operation, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. If they're not finished counting all the receipts from the previous day, they stay over until the job's done. No money is left in the building overnight.

As cash clerks quickly learn, the old cliché about "dirty money" is very true. Filth from the coins builds up inside the machines, requiring frequent servicing. Most employees wear gloves. Overhead, a filtering system removes dust circulating in the air.

Cash counting is also a noisy task, as the sound of coins jangling in a pocket is multiplied hundreds of times over within the work area. Protective ear coverings are mandatory.

The workload varies, with the heaviest collections made on Mondays and Fridays, and the lowest point occurring during weekends and holidays.

Business is especially good the first working day of the month, when pension and welfare checks arrive. The busiest day of all is the first working day following New Year's.

However, bad weather can disrupt that pattern. Revenue drops about 20 per cent on a cloudy day, Miller said. Rainy days are even worse, as more people drive or stay home. "I can pretty much tell the weather on any particular day by glancing at the receipts," he said.

When the District had a base fare of 25 cents, cash counting collected mostly quarters. Now with the 40-cent fare, they've had a big increase in dimes and nickels.

"We got a call about a bullfrog one day . . ."

But the fare hike affected their workload dramatically in another way. "Paper currency more than doubled," reported Tom Collins, RTD cashier and assistant treasurer. "It's slowed down our operation."

While the bills are supposed to be folded three times and paper-clipped before being dropped into the farebox, many of them are turned in tightly folded six or seven times. It requires tedious, time-consuming unfolding by the cash counters.

Consequently, the department has had to add three more employees and they've purchased an electronic bill counter that computes one-dollar bills by weight. Fives, tens and larger bills are still hand-counted.

But not everything that finds its way into a bus farebox makes it to the bank. About 50 pounds of foreign coins are collected every three months. They're eventually put up for public bid.

And there's an assortment of mostly valueless odds and ends. Miller pulled open his "junk drawer" to display some of the items that have turned up in fareboxes. Like a toy treasure chest, it was filled with shiny rings, bracelets, keys, penknives, marbles, beads and dice. There's an occasional bullet, pair of eye glasses or false teeth. These objects are retained for a few months and then thrown out if left unclaimed.

But perhaps the most startling story of all involved someone's apparent pet. "We got a call about a bullfrog one day," Miller said. "But when we found him, he was dead."

Keep spooks, goblins safe

Halloween—the night filled with hobgoblins, witches and other colorful fun-seekers—is just around the corner. It's an eagerly awaited, fun holiday for the small fry, but it can present serious traffic hazards for motorists.

The National Safety Council urges all drivers to be doubly defensive when driving on October 31. Many of the trick-or-treaters will be wearing masks that restrict their vision or cumbersome costumes that hamper movement. Moreover, the merrymaking spirit can cause youngsters to become careless.

According to the Council, the majority of Halloween accidents occur when children dart out from between parked cars. So it's advisable for motorists to drive slower than normal in residential areas. And it's also a good idea to make sure car headlights and windshield are extra clean for ample visibility.

For the parents of trick-or-treaters, the following safety tips are urged:

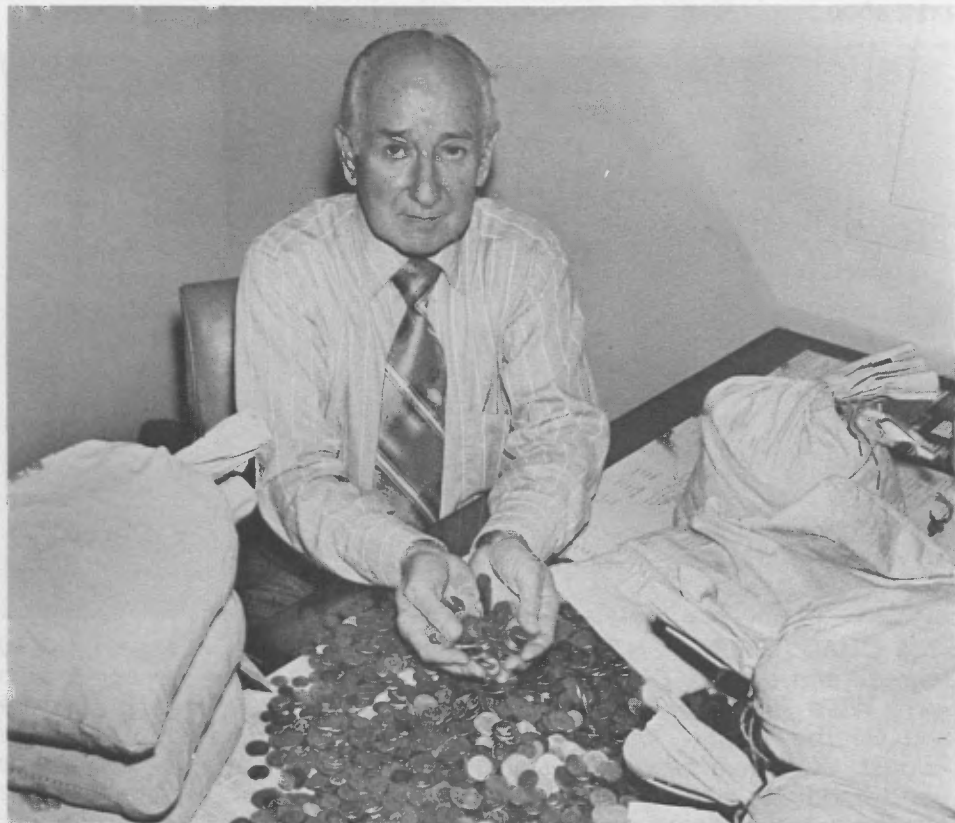
- Review traffic laws with the children, emphasizing they cross streets only at marked crosswalks, obey all traffic signals and wait on the curb before entering the street.

- Map out a route for them, marking stops at homes where the residents are known;

- Encourage them to do their trick-or-treating during early evening hours when it's lighter;

- Select light-colored costumes and decorate them and their sacks with reflective tape. The costumes should fit properly without obstructing their vision;

- Try to have an adult accompany small children throughout the evening, serving as a guide and a quieting influence.



Tom Collins with foreign coins ready for public bid

Layover Zone:

Operator Sassano strikes a fine balance

Editor's Note: The Layover Zone is a column dedicated to you, the employee, and your leisure time activities. The following is another of a series of articles describing what you do with your "layover" time. Please submit descriptions of your special hobbies, activities or interests to Headway, 6th Floor, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles or call Madeleine Bickert, Editor, at Ext. 6680.

Alfred Sassano is a man who doesn't believe in keeping still. When he's not driving buses out of Division 8, he's lifting weights or running long distances.

But more remarkable than that, his family and friends are most likely to find Sassano in his spare hours performing 180s, 360s, flying aerials, power slides or handstands—all on wheels.

Sassano is an avid skateboard rider, maneuvering fancy turns and executing gymnastic-like feats on top of his custom-made skateboard. He's gotten so good at it during the last 1½ years since he took up the sport that Skateboard Magazine recently expressed interest in reporting on him.

While the bus operator has

always believed in keeping in shape, he actually became involved in skateboarding when his eldest son Dean bet him \$5 he couldn't remain standing on one. Three months later, Sassano was rivaling his son for the family title of skateboard champ.

"I started out in the hallways of my house where I could hold onto the walls," he explained, and "then I ventured into the driveway." As he gained confidence, Sassano practiced in empty drainage ditches and a local dam. Now about three times a week he goes to nearby professional skateboarding parks with specially built, steep angle "bowls" for executing fancy turns and flips.

He takes all three children with him—Dean, 15; daughter Linda, 10; and son, David, who is 5; plus his girlfriend Rose and her 4-year-old son, Michael. "Everybody rides. No one just sits and watches," he said.

"Skateboarding in the park is not the same as skateboarding in the street," he warned. And he cautioned against commercial skateboards sold in toy stores. Calling them "bone crushers," he said many are constructed with inferior materials. Sassano made his own skateboard out of solid oak



PERFORMING TRICKY MANEUVERS on a skateboard is a favorite pastime of Alfred Sassano, who says knowing how to fall is one of the keys. He's shown here at another of his frequent practice sessions. Photo was taken by his girlfriend Rose, who's also a skateboarding fan.

and then added specially-built parts, for a total cost of about \$85.

Like many other avocations, skateboarding can be dangerous. Above all, it requires balance, he stressed, plus "a good wind and knowing how to fall. You can't be frightened or you'll get hurt."

For proper protection, professionals wear knee and elbow pads, tennis shoes, wrist and hip guards, and a helmet.

Thus far Sassano has only suffered one significant injury. He broke his wrist while skateboarding in a drained swimming pool. After he got the cast, he immediately returned to his practice sessions in the pool.

Specializing in a pastime typically regarded as youth oriented, the 37-year-old bus operator goodnaturedly dismisses the teasing he gets from fellow bus drivers. "Age is no limit," he said. "It's only a number." Besides, skateboarding keeps him trim.

"I never sit down," the bus operator added. "I hate sitting down." Except, of course, when he and Dean team up to perform a catamaran. Using two skateboards, father and son sit down, interlock legs and are pushed into the bowl for another exhilarating ride.

Invitation to RTD Family Night at Magic Mountain



WHEN: Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16, 1977
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE: 26101 Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia, California
(Main entrance two minutes west of Interstate 5 on Magic Mountain Parkway.)

WHO: Thanks to the Recreation Department, a special low group rate has been arranged of just \$4.50 per person for RTD personnel and their immediate family (parents, sons and daughters of employees only). Children under 3 admitted free. (Regular prices are \$7.95 per adult and \$6.95 for children 3 to 11.)

WHY: 200 acres of old-fashioned fun for the entire family

THINGS TO DO:

Brave spine-tingling rollercoasters and splashy water adventures. Visit Spillikin Corners where master craftspeople work at their time-honored arts. Board the Grand Centennial Excursion to the Old West. Take the small fry to Wizard's Village or Children's World for special rides and magical attractions. Be entertained by the Rainbow Street Theatre's mimes, magicians and jugglers. Pet and feed a wide array of tame creatures inside the Animal Farm. And more!

Call Betty at Ext. 6580 for tickets
(Make all checks payable to RTD)





Something for everyone

The RTD's First Annual Old-Fashioned Western Picnic on August 28 more than lived up to its claim of "just plain fun!" The day turned out to be a lively and highly enjoyable one for the more than 2,500 employees and family members who turned out at the private Calamigos Ranch in the Malibu hills.

diamonds, volleyball courts, a small lake with fishing and boating, large swimming pool, mechanical and pony rides for the kids, barnyard animals, hayrides, music and shaded picnic areas.

A total of 31 buses, with transportation service from every division, carried many of the picnic-goers to their destination. There 35 grassy acres offered softball

Probably the toughest task of the day was deciding what to do next. Friendly sports competitions and games continued throughout the afternoon, including baseball, volleyball, swimming, table tennis, horseshoes, and frisbee-throwing.

The ranch also organized a



... at RTD Annual Picnic

series of special events such as men's and women's nail-hitting competitions. Other groups competed for candy and assorted prizes in leapfrogging, wheelbarrowing and sack races on the lawn.

Besides all that, some suspenseful moments passed as the RTD drawing awarded 200 Dodge cars passes to the lucky ticket holders.

All the excitement worked up a hearty appetite and thirst. RTD pic-

nic-goers consumed 3,000 servings of popcorn, 14,000 soft drinks and 6,000 ice creams, in addition to unlimited helpings of barbecued chicken and beef, baked beans, salads, cold cuts, and rolls from the chuck wagon-style lunch.

By the end of the afternoon, the day's activities had taken their toll on some picnickers. As the photo below shows, at least a few retreated to a comfortable, shady spot to engage in their own favored picnic-time pursuit—good, old-fashioned napping.



We regret . . .

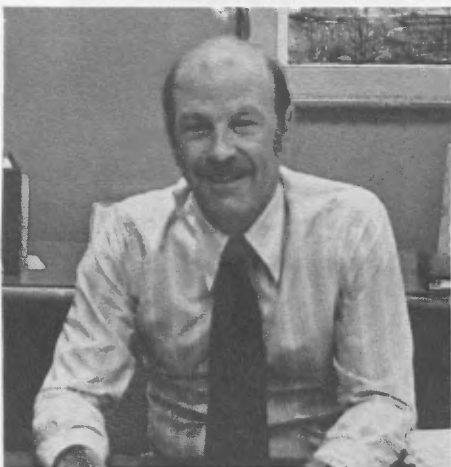
The response to the RTD's First Annual Picnic was overwhelming and very gratifying, with ticket sales exceeding original expectations. Every effort was made to accommodate everyone wishing to attend.

Unfortunately, because prompt, full food and beverage service required a definite estimate of the number of persons expected, picnic ticket sales had to be cut off the previous Friday afternoon when that limit was reached.

Employee Relations regrets some persons who waited until that day to obtain tickets had to be turned away. If you were one of those who missed the big event, we sincerely apologize and promise you RTD's Second Annual Picnic will be even bigger and better!



THE FIRST OF several monthly drawings for tickets to exciting Los Angeles Rams' football games was held last month, with seven pairs of tickets awarded to Division 6. That division, in keeping with the RTD's new incentive program to curtail the number of road calls occurring throughout the District, recorded the biggest reduction in road calls per miles operated over the previous month. Here picking names at random of Division 6 employees are (from left) George Wells, general superintendent of maintenance and equipment; George Heinle, manager of operations; Andi McFall, operations staff assistant; and Jack Walsh, general superintendent of transportation. The seven ticket winners were: Russell Rose, mechanic; Eugene Pace, utility A; Delmar Gould, operator; John Dinwiddie, operator; James Ellis, operator; Thomas Baker, operator; and Eugene Sims, division dispatcher.



RTD's Byron Lewis honored

Byron Lewis, RTD director of personnel, was honored for his outstanding service at the 1977 awards presentation of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Los Angeles Chapter.

Lewis became the 1977 recipient of the Will Baughman Award for "significant contribution to the development, growth, and strength of the chapter over a considerable period of time." As the awards committee noted, over the years he had served on the chapter council, as membership chairman, secretary-treasurer, awards coordinator, and on many other committees, as well as operations chief for their national conference.

Founded in 1939, ASPA is a national organization for those interested in improving public service at federal, state and local government levels and within universities, non-profit organizations and private firms with persons administering to the public's business needs.

Oldest retiree passes away

A page of RTD history was turned on August 25, 1977 when the District's oldest retiree, William Daniel McArthur, passed away. He was 102 years old.

Born on June 13, 1875 in Franklin, Tennessee, McArthur came to California and in 1906 joined what was then the Los Angeles Railway. He worked as a motorman at Division 1 until 1920, when he became a substation operator in the power division. On June 16, 1945 he retired.

For his 100th birthday, he received a congratulatory letter from then-President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford. He was also honored by the RTD with a birthday card and cake. A private celebration was held at the convalescent home in El Monte where he spent his remaining years.

Change of color

District employees may have noticed that some of the supervisors and instructors have looked different lately. Their usual Burgundy Suraline textured polyester gabardine jacket is now being replaced by a Marina Blue one.

Supervisors and instructors can continue to purchase and wear the Burgundy-colored jacket. However, since supplies of them are dwindling, the Marina Blue ones will be phasing out the former color.

The second jacket was approved as a permanent part of the official supervisors' and instructors' uniform in time to insure that no one goes coatless this winter.

Recreation News:

Fall, winter trips await

RTD's Family Fun Party at Disneyland on September 18 drew a terrific amount of interest. Over 3,000 employees took advantage of the economical prices for a full evening of exciting Disneyland rides, attractions, music and live entertainment.

To follow up that response, the RTD has arranged a Family Night at Magic Mountain on October 15 and 16. Like last year, the event promises to be another well-attended, fun night. See page 5 for full details.

On October 14, over 100 RTD employees and family members will be boarding a Continental DC-10 for romantic Hawaii. The low \$299 per person price (based on double occupancy) covers round trip air fare, seven nights' accommodations at the Napualani Hotel, transfers, tips, welcome breakfast and more.

The Second Annual Christmas Discount Trip to Las Vegas is scheduled for December 16 and 17. This cut-rate package, priced at just \$29.50 per person for accommodations at the Fremont Hotel, offers a considerable savings over the regular \$41.50 per person price.

Employees will have an opportunity to welcome in the New Year on another scenic island—Catalina. The New Year's Eve Catalina trip will leave during the early evening and return in the wee hours of 1978. There'll be a buffet dinner (not included in the initial price) and dancing at the historic casino to complete the celebration.

Other visits to interesting places include a trip to Mazatlan departing January 10, with a full week's stay at the El Cid Hotel Resort Beach. Non-stop air service, free tennis and golf, swimming, and a festive arrival cocktail party at the hotel will be included during this "Spend A Little, Play A Lot" Mexican holiday.

Much further down the road, preliminary plans are to put together a tour package for Tokyo during late 1978.

And if Mother Nature cooperates this year by providing enough snow, there are hopes of scheduling a ski trip to the Sierras this winter for RTD winter sports enthusiasts.

For more information on these events, watch future issues of Headway or call the Recreation Department at Ext. 6580.

Attention all music lovers

Undoubtedly, one of the finest pleasures in life is good music. RTD employees could make beautiful music together, provided their talents are combined and coordinated.

Two years ago the District took steps to begin organizing musical groups within its ranks. A survey of the musically-inclined indicated that a lot of talent was going untapped in the form of banjo strummers, glee club singers, piccolo players, former college music majors, trombonists and others at varying levels of experience.

Unfortunately, initial organization attempts were bogged down and those persons eager to participate were disappointed. However, this time the Recreation Department promises to carry through the project—if enough persons respond.

The possibilities of employee musical groups are almost limitless. Barber shop quartets, bands, string ensembles, or chorale groups could be formed to showcase their talents during special RTD

ceremonies, picnics, holiday celebrations, parties, for theatrical groups and other events.

Preliminary plans are to hold evening practice sessions once a week, depending on the most convenient meeting time for everyone involved. The sessions will be held inside the former gas company structure at Division 9 in El Monte.

The District will provide all necessary equipment, except instruments. In addition, the program will be coordinated by a music director devoted solely to this end.

The project isn't searching for professional musicians in RTD uniforms. What counts is genuine enthusiasm.

It's an opportunity for employees to dust off their musical instruments, expand their singing beyond the shower walls, meet other persons from throughout the company, and have a good time.

Interested employees are urged to fill out the form below and return it before October 21, 1977 via company mail to: Bill Weimer, Recreation Department, Location 32.

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.: _____



Kenny Parker

Kenny Parker of Div. 8 mourned

The District was saddened to learn of the loss of Kenny Parker, transportation manager at Division 8, on July 20, 1977. He died of a heart attack.

A native Californian, Parker was born on September 27, 1921 in Los Angeles. His more than 30 years of transportation service began on March 27, 1946, when he started as a dispatcher with Asbury Rapid Transportation Co. During the ensuing years, he was promoted through the ranks, later becoming part of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority.

More recently, on Jan. 1, 1968 he became assistant transportation manager at Division 3-10 and then division manager at Division 7 on May 1, 1970.

Parker went to Division 8 on June 3, 1973 where he served ably as the transportation manager.

In addition, since 1966 Parker has been actively involved in the Credit Union. He became a member of their board of directors in 1971 and two years later was chosen as board vice president.

The following year, when Frank Matzner, board president, died, Parker served as president pro tempore until that term ended and was subsequently elected as president in 1975—a position he maintained until his death.

Parker leaves his mother, Claire Parker; wife, Adalene; and son, Kenny Jr.



Gerry Woods, Acting Manager Div. 8.

Classified

● St. Bernard Pups for sale. 3 males and 1 female, AKC-registered. Born on July 17, ready for a good home. Very playful. \$150 with papers. Call Terry Anderson at 213-869-8829.

● Desk, Mediterranean style, 27" x 55". Slate top, gold trim. Beautiful, like new. Sells for \$1,000, will sacrifice for \$395. Call Lawrence Springer at 213-651-3988.

● '72 Buick. Power steering, brakes and windows. Air cond. AM-FM and tape. \$1800. Contact Paul at 996-5585.

Word of thanks

Dear Bill Weimer and Staff:

Because the Annual RTD Picnic on August 28 was so successful and enjoyable for employees and their families, I felt moved to express my thanks, and the thanks of my fellow employees, for the wonderful job of planning and coordinating which achieved the memorable Sunday.

Your investment of time and effort demonstrates your concern in the working force. Morale is built from events such as this and I am sure that your efforts will be rewarded by a more efficient operation due to our own increased efforts.

We shared the fun of swimming, volleyball, horseshoe pitching, dominoes, basketball, boating, hayrides, etc., and we surely can't forget the lovely dinner and the ample supply of beverages and popcorn and ice cream. This will surely remain in our memories until we can share the next recreational event.

We're grateful for what you have done. Many thanks to you and your staff. We can all certainly take pride in being part of the District.

Jay Sanders
Division 3209



DISABLED GET A HELPING HAND in the RTD Rider-Training Program. Jerry Tafoya, Marvin Boone and Leon Tebshrary (left to right in wheelchairs) watch intently as James Bernard, RTD instructor/driver (left, standing), and Michael Lande, director of the Lawrence F. Frank Rehabilitation Workshop, Crippled Children's Society of Los Angeles County, officiate at the training session for the physically disabled on the safe boarding and usage of buses. The RTD also works jointly with Lanterman School, Los Angeles, and the Braille Institute, presenting practical bus riding drills for trainable mentally retarded children and blind or visually-handicapped people.

Another fun-filled outing noted

General Services Department's Second Annual Picnic on July 30 was a great day for the crowd of about 300 persons who turned out at the Arcadia County Park.

Harold Kelley and Anita Allen of General Services organized a busy day of tennis, swimming, baseball, and many other recreational activities, but for many of the children, the day's big highlight centered on the pinata.

Providing the necessary "fuel food" was the potluck picnic lunch, headed by Ruth Kelley and Anita Allen. Fried chicken, spareribs, fish and chips, baked beans, various

salads, desserts and more were in ample supply.

In the tennis matches, Kelvin Kelley, Pat Bates and John Kubota emerged the winners, with Jose Garza and Jose Fuentes leading the swimmers.

Coordinators for the successful day were Cher McLaughlin and Michael Benninghoven of the Print Shop; Doris Brown and Jose Fuentes of the Mail Room and Day Maintenance; Bertha Wooley, Joe Coleman and Tina County of Janitorial Personnel; and Janet Clark and Karen ImHof, General Services.



Especially for

RTD

Members, Families & Friends

Departing
January 10, 1978

7 DAYS & 7 NIGHTS ... WITH

**FREE GOLF
AND
TENNIS
ON**

TOUR INCLUDES:

■ **AIR SERVICE:** Two-hour, non-stop scheduled flight from Los Angeles via Mexicana Airlines. Free champagne and gourmet meal service.

■ **TRANSFERS:** Transfer of passengers and one piece of luggage between airport and hotel including all gratuities.

■ **HOTEL:** 7 nights at the deluxe EL CID Hotel Resort Beach, Golf and Racquet Club. FREE GOLF on an 18-hole par 72 championship course (50 electric golf carts available). FREE TENNIS — 4 clay and 4 hard surface. Two swimming pools. Each room a mini-suite, air-conditioned, private lanai, refrigerator, etc. Beach club with food and bar service plus free towels and chairs. December 20-April 15 Program includes free caddy or one-half electric golf cart daily.

■ **PARTIES:** Festive arrival cocktail party with music at the hotel.

■ **HOSPITALITY:** A staff of experts to serve you at the hotel.

■ **ESCORT:** Professional Tour Director throughout stay for personalized attention.

■ **GUARANTEED DEPOSITS:** All funds secured in the name of the organization with Bank of America in a special tour account for prepayment of necessary tour arrangements.

■ **OPTIONAL EVENTS:** Authentic Mexican Fiesta, special charter fishing rates at the world's greatest fishing grounds, Jungle Cruise, City Tour, Bay Cruise, FREE GROUP GOLF AND TENNIS LESSONS and much more. Three seminar rooms holding from 75 to 150 people.

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972-6580

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c/o Bank of America
2500 Northgate Shopping Center
San Rafael, CA 94903

Departs Jan. 10, '78
Returns Jan. 17, '78
from Los Angeles

Enclosed is my deposit of _____ \$50 per person

NAME(S) _____

Smoking section

ADDRESS _____

Non smoking section

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Twin bedded room, \$303 per person inclusive
 Single supplement \$69 per person

SHARING WITH _____

If you are sharing a twin-bedded room with someone who has submitted their deposit separately, you must indicate that individual's name above or it will be necessary to charge you for a single room. It is your responsibility to secure your own roommate. Airtare requires 40 minimum passengers.

Reserve Now! Avoid Disappointment! Space is Limited!

1977 Rodeo contestants

Div.	Name	Final Score
1	Adolf Saenz	529
2	Frank Pachi	640
3	Dan Feil	601
4	Ernest Patton	590
5	Clarence Adams	567
6	Delmar Gould	632
7	Jordan Ace Holland	553
8	David Vaillancourt	576
9	Carlos Baez	676
10	Isiah McClain	648
11	John T. Downes	672
12	Howard Brenchley	685
15	Rodger Desgroseilliers	592
18	Robert Maitino	638



Successfully completing the off-set street



Tight squeeze through rear duals clearance



The passenger stop is closely measured



Marie and Bivin Thompson, husband and wife, in the preliminaries

Roadeo

(Continued from page 1)

"Baretta"; Linda Lee LeMarr, Santa Anita Race Track hostess; and the Der Weinerschnitzel WienerDog. Noontime entertainment was provided by calypso artist Theodore Benedict plus Lou Velsey and the Country Gentlemen Popular Barbershop Quartet.

The 14 competing finalists were whittled down from over 100 operators who entered the preliminary roadeo try-outs on August 6 and 7.

The preliminaries not only included the driving test, but a safety and rule book quiz, personal appearance rating and a pre-trip bus inspection test. The highest scorer from each division then went on to compete in the finals.

To qualify for the competition, all operators had to have been employed from June 1, 1976 to June 1, 1977 and have spent at least 11 of those months as a full-time bus driver. He or she also had to meet requirements limiting the number of missouts, illnesses or sick days during that time, as well as have a record free of suspensions,

avoidable accidents and demerits.

The National Bus Roadeo, sponsored by the American Public Transit Association, is designed to test safe driving skills and knowledge as well as reward employees who have maintained top driving records and professional attitudes.

As part of RTD's recognition of these drivers, an awards presentation banquet will be held at Luminaria's Restaurant in Monterey Park on October 6. Besides special plaques, Brenchley will receive a \$500 savings bond, Baez will be awarded a \$200 savings bond, and Downes will be the recipient of \$100. The remaining 11 runners-up with all receive a \$50 certificate.

Competition at this year's National Roadeo is expected to be slightly stiffer than in 1976 because more transit companies are anticipated to enter. First prize there brings \$1,000, trophy and the esteemed title of national champion bus operator.

Minneapolis-born Brenchley, who's been with the RTD for six years, said he's never been to Atlanta before. The entire District wishes Brenchley the best of luck!



Top scorers (from left): Downes, Brenchley, Baez



Brenchley's whole clan turned out



Friends and family came to cheer



From left: Diane Moran, Debbie McPherson, Michelle Podaca, Downes, Brenchley, Baez, Linda Lee LeMarr, WienerDog, Jack Gilstrap



Rocky Stone conducts the walk-through



Special congratulations from Miss Santa Anita Race Track

MAKING HEADWAY

Two operators recently became fathers for the first time. At Division 2, Operator Richard H. Prout and his wife Susan became the proud parents of Jesse Hyatt on July 18.

On August 1, Operator D. A. Bocek of Division 18 and his wife Melina welcomed their first baby, daughter Lora Christine. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 13 oz.



Radio Dispatcher Rene Olivo and his wife Elisa proudly announced the appointment of their daughter, Estella, to Head Drum Major for the 125 marching members of the Baldwin Park High School Braves Band. She will also head the 65-member drill team. Estella was voted in the "Who's Who" Music Students in America Assn. and was among the 10 finalists in her class in drum majoring this summer at Santa Barbara University.

James Martin, Division 8 operator, and his wife Cindy taped the Newlywed Game on August 10. The Martins won the game and the grand prize of a Magnavox Color Console TV and two lazy boy recliners. The Newlywed Game is coming back on late-night television on September 5 on Channel 5. Airtime of the Martin's win is expected to be in October or November.

Rosemary Vincent, wife of Division 8 Operator Bob Vincent, graduated in May from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles with a degree in Registered Nursing. She is currently working as a R.N. at Westlake Community Hospital in Westlake and will continue her education at U.C.L.A. where she will specialize in coronary care.

Operator Aaron Dorsey Jr. of Division 6 and his wife Catalina have announced the arrival of their second child, daughter Monique B., born on August 11. Monique weighed in at 6 lbs. and 15 oz. The Dorseys have another daughter, Cathy.

After 35 years of separation, it was a joyful reunion for Operator Harold Lee of Division 15 and his older brother, James R. Lee. James had run away from home when Harold was about six years old and hadn't been seen since then. About three years ago, the family's efforts to trace him were successful when James was located in Michigan City, Indiana. The two brothers kept in touch by telephone until August 16. Then "he called me from the bus station in L.A. and scared the heck out of me." Harold's response to the happy, long-overdue reunion was "I love him."



decided to retire on the same day—September 9, 1977. Miller came to the District on November 26, 1940 and Graeser joined on February 5, 1946. Both men spent much of their time working out of Division 9.

Lorraine Tumminieri, daughter of Operator Paul Tumminieri of Division 12, wed Scott Francis Council on July 13. The wedding was held at Calvary Chapel in Santa Ana.

Drivers wanted

The Northeast Los Angeles County Unit of the American Cancer Society is seeking RTD bus operators who'll volunteer some free time to drive a mobile unit to various locations throughout greater Los Angeles.

Their Mobile Screening Unit consists of a GMC three quarter ton pick-up with three-speed manual transmission and will pull a 28-foot trailer. The trailer will be used in their new pilot project in cancer education and screening.

Interested drivers should contact Preston Clark at 213-795-7774.

Luchus P. Smith, Sr., supervisor at Division 6, and his wife and family announced their son's graduation from Loyola-Marymount University. Luchus Smith, Jr. received his B.A. in sociology and is currently planning a future that may include law school. His family is very proud of his accomplishment and they're joined by the division's mechanical department in wishing him continued success.

Two instructors and long-time friends, Clarence A. Miller and George W. Graeser, coincidentally



STARTLED LOOKS crossed the faces of passengers on Line 83 when their RTD driver stopped to pick up an unusual passenger waiting in Beverly Hills. Boarding the bus was a 8-ft. tall, 10-ft. long "monster ant," complete with giant stinger tail. Actually, the ant was UCLA student Michael Kahn promoting a new movie, "Empire of the Ants," from American International Pictures. Starring Joan Collins, the plot concerns ants which grow into ferocious creatures after feeding on atomic waste.

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. (Return via company mail.) Cartoons, photos and other contributions are also always welcome.

HEADWAY

Volume 4 Number 8
 Published by and for the employees of the Southern California Rapid Transit District. Send stories, photos, or just the facts to Madeleine Bickert, Editor, HEADWAY, 6th Floor, 425 So. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

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