In a significant move to upgrade the RTD's fleet by replacing older model equipment, the Board of Directors approved a plan on March 2 to obtain 1,000 new buses over the next two years. Adhering to the District's policy decision of four years ago, all of them will be equipped with lifts for handicapped and elderly persons.

This acquisition will be in addition to the 200 new A M General buses presently arriving at the District, as well as the 30 articulated buses, 20 double-deckers and 50 intermediate (30-foot long) buses already on order.

District to acquire thousand new buses

The newly-approved 1,000-bus purchase, combined with the other buses ordered, means that within three to four years, an RTD rider's chances of boarding a new bus will be very high.

"The RTD has nearly 2,200 buses on the streets today," said Marvin Holen, Board President. "The average age is just under 12 years, the oldest fleet of any ma-

jor U.S. metropolitan area."

New equipment will not only attract more ridership, he predicted, but it will also improve the quality of the ride for current patrons. Moreover, it will eliminate much of the maintenance work and expense involved in upkeep on the older model coaches. Some of these were obtained from other transit properties during the 1974 fuel

shortage to meet sudden increased passenger demands from local residents.

Cost of the 1,000 new buses is estimated at \$100 million, with the federal government expected to provide \$80 million of that amount and the remainder to be raised locally.

During the past few years, District officials have been hampered by a lack of funding to buy new buses. In addition, until recently there have been no U.S. manufacturers available to supply buses equipped with lifts for elderly and handicapped individuals.

Southern California Rapid Transit District



HEAD

Volume 5, Number 4



April 1978

RTD links up with new commuter train

RTD buses were ready and waiting at Union Station on February 14, 1978 when the new Los Angeles County El Camino Train rolled into downtown Los Angeles from San Diego.

This new train service, augmenting Amtrak's five other daily San Diego-Los Angeles runs, marked the first time in over a decade that rail transportation between the two cities has been offered the public during the earmorning and late afternoon peak traffic periods.

To accommodate those persons seeking rush hour trainbus connections, the District made service adjustments on some of its lines. Twenty-three RTD bus lines are currently transporting the El Camino commuters to and from downtown Los Angeles and the mid-Wilshire area while many other connecting lines make all parts of greater Los Angeles easily accessible by bus.

In addition, to help commuters locate their desired bus routes and destinations, all RTD stops surrounding Union Station have been identified by letter designations. A map indicating the lettered bus stop locations is posted at the station's RTD Information

Center between the passenger waiting room and boarding area.

The county-owned El Camino train is being operated jointly by Amtrak, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the County of Los Angeles on a six-month experimental basis. It consists of eight attractively refurbished cars with a total seating capacity of 473.

The El Camino's inaugural run on Valentine's Day culminated several years' effort by Los Angeles County Supervisor Baxter Ward to initiate such service for Southland residents.

Joining the supervisor for the debut trip were such high-ranking state officials as Governor Jerry Brown, Caltrans Director Adriana Gianturco and State Senator President Pro Tem James Mills. Representing the District and noting RTD's important role in this project were several Directors, management and staff members.

With stops in Fullerton, Santa Ana, and other Orange County and San Diego County points, it's hoped that the El Camino will ease commuter automobile congestion, particularly along the heavily travelled Santa Ana Freeway.



RTD General Manager Jack Gilstrap (far left) greets Governor Brown on board the new San Diego-Los Angeles commuter train. In background are Gray Davis, the governor's aide, and RTD Director Jay Price.



Operators await El Camino passengers at Union Station in L.A.



Officially commemorating the new train are (from left) Los Angeles County Supervisor Baxter Ward, RTD Director Charles Storing, State Senator President Pro Tem James Mills, and RTD Board President Marvin Holen.

Monthly employee spotlight

The most recent trio of individuals honored by the District as Employees of the Month were Benjamin F. Looney, Bette Goddard and Albert Evan Meyer.

Looney was chosen as Maintenance Employee of the Month because of the high quality of his work during the 20 years he's served as lineman, electric switch repairman, electrician and now as acting foreman, vacation relief. His enthusiast and responsible attitude and his indepth knowledge of electrical procedures have made him a valuable asset to the District.

Goddard transferred into the telephone information section in 1968 after working many years as a streetcar and bus operator. Because of her punctuality, courteousness and careful telephone responses, she received the Information Operator of the Month award previously in 1974. This second recognition shows she con-

tinues to maintain those high job standards.

During the 35 years that Division 3 Operator Meyer has driven a bus, his attendance record has been beyond reproach, he's never had a missout and he has achieved the maximum of 60 merits. Those attributes, his driving safety record, and the commendation

letters received about him earned this employee the Operator of the Month award.

Presenting the awards at the meeting was Director Ruth E. Richter.



Director Richter presents certificate to Maintenance Employee Looney.



Information Operator Goddard receives her second award.



Division 3 Manager Paul Mahoney (right) joins Director Richter and Bus Operator Meyer.



Spectators watch anxiously as playoffs narrow dominos competition.

Div. 9 captures domino trophy



Division 9 emerged the victor at RTD's Second Annual Domino Tournament, capturing the perpetual trophy from Division 3, last year's winner, during a fast-paced championship match.

In fact, Division 3 came close to winning the trophy for a second year, as the series of playoffs ended with Division 3 Operators Jethro Hassen and Art Miranda pitted against Division 9 Operators Abel Garcia and Richard Luna for the final rounds.

It was then that Garcia and Luna won the first two of three possible games, thereby cutting short the final match. The tournament, held on Saturday, February 11 at the downtown headquarters building, brought together eight teams representing the majority of divisions and headquarters personnel to vye for the championship title.

The tournament began last November with 44 two-person teams competing. The elimination rounds were held weekly until each location was represented by a winner.

Besides the rotating divisional trophy awarded to Division 9, each participant in the finals received an individual domino trophy.



The victors (from left): Frank El Fattal, Division 9 "coach"; champions Luna and Garcia; with John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations.

Classified

- Home site, over 10,000 sq. ft. N. Port Charlotte, Florida in Sarasota County. Asking \$5,000 cash or \$2,500 and take over \$40 payments. Call 213-985-9564.
- Four JBL 12-inch D-130's monitor cabinets with cords.
 \$350 firm price. Call Alan at 466-9131.
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- 1977 M.G.B., 8,000 mi. Yellow/blk. pin stripes. \$400 and take over \$115.74 mo. payments or \$5,400 cash. Call 805-527-3341.
- 1973 L.T.D. Brougham. 35,000 mi., one owner. Power steering,

- power brakes, air conditioning plus more. \$2,400. Call 213-361-3633 after 4 p.m.
- 1975 Kawasaki, 900 cc. Draw back handle bars, 16" rear wheel. 6,000 mi. \$1,650 cash. Call 213-881-0377.
- C.B. radio, base unit. Corbs
 139 SSB, Turner Super Sidekick
 \$300. Call 213-787-9957.
- 1976 Honda 500 cc. Twin C-B. 1,400 mil. \$900. Call 213-348-4351.
- Golf clubs and bag and covers. Arnold Palmer set. \$150. Call 213-782-5714.
- 1964 Dodge Polara, blue. Needs tires and brakes. Good running condition. Air conditioned. \$350 or best offer. Call 213-982-4354 after 5 p.m.
- 1973 Cadillac Eldorado. Fully equipped, new tires, sun roof. Red. Asking price: \$3,800. Call days 627-0767; evenings 877-7736.

History of heroic deeds puts driver in limelight

When unusual circumstances arise, some RTD bus operators have gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist others. Sometimes their acts verge on heroism, as did Division 7 Operator Sam Taylor's response to an incident on February 23.

Taylor was driving Line 4 along Melrose Avenue when he spotted a moving car about a half-block away with flames shooting out from underneath its chassis. At the wheel was Joel M. Johnson of Chicago, who was unaware that the rented car he was driving was on fire.

Taylor quickly pulled up his bus behind the car and began nonking his horn as a warning. The motorist, somewhat puzzled, mally pulled over. Taylor parked his bus alongside the burning vehicle, grabbed the fire extinguisher and leapt down the stepwell while about two dozen a mazed RTD passengers watched.

"I laid on the street with the extinguisher and put out the flames. I wanted to stop it before it got to the gas tank," the operator explained. Next he opened the car door, released the hood and squirted the engine with the flame retardant.

Johnson was dazed. "He was just standing there, looking a little confused," Taylor reported. "I told him to leave the motor off, call the agency and get another rental."

Because impatient motorists nearby were honking and yelling at Taylor to move his bus out of the traffic lane, Taylor jumped back in to continue along his ute. But not before Johnson, no had finally grasped the situation, managed to get the operator's badge number. The out-of-towner called the Los Angeles Times and reported how Taylor's quick thinking and brave deed had saved the vehicle and possibly his life.

On February 24, the Times ran the account, entitled "Bus Driver Shifts Into Hero Gear," accompanied by Taylor's photo. The 28-year-old operator accepted all the laudatory attention modestly.

"I was really amazed and surprised such a nice article was written. It feels good," he remarked.

A few days later, the District awarded him a plaque, a \$25 restaurant gift certificate for dinner for him and his wife, and a RTD commemorative belt. And KNX Radio made him "Citizen of the Week."

Taylor's own opinion is that he responded automatically to help another in distress. At the same time, he expressed disgust with people who refuse to get involved. Because in the less than three years he's been an RTD employee, he's encountered similar situations.

About six months ago, while driving along Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills, he saw two men approach a messenger leaving a bank. They knocked the man down, grabbed the \$5,000 in cash and other securities that he had been carrying, and began running down the street in separate directions.

Taylor immediately calculated where the assailant with the stolen money would run, stopped his bus at the exact spot and reached through his window to grab the man.

The robber managed to free himself and took off again. This time Taylor applied the emergency brake and jumped off the bus in hot pursuit. "I did the 30-yard dash and got him," he recalled. Taylor retained his grip on the man until the police arrived.

There was yet another incident one night about a year ago when Taylor was driving Line 44 along Adams Boulevard. He spotted a young woman lying unconscious in the street about five feet from the curb. He swerved to avoid hitting her and then stopped to investigate.

She was still breathing. Taylor questioned several passersby leaving a nearby party but nobody volunteered any information or assistance. So Taylor telephoned for an ambulance himself.

"I called the hospital later and they said she would be okay," he reported. They also told him if his call hadn't summoned help when it did, she would have died of a drug overdose.

Until the burning auto incident, Taylor never got any credit or thanks for his heroism, but he said he never expected any. To him it's all in a day's work, more or less.

"Sometimes you've got to be a policeman, fireman, information center and psychiatrist," he remarked philosophically about his job. "But I really like driving a bus."



Operator Taylor (2nd from right), now famous for his quick handling of a fire extinguisher, receives recognition and reward from (L-R) Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation; Sam Black, Acting Manager of Operations; and Jack Gilstrap, General Manager.



FOLLOWING HIS UNANIMOUS RE-ELECTION on March 2 to a one-year term as President of the RTD Board of Directors, Marvin L. Holen (center) is sworn into office by Helen Bolen. Holen, the appointee of Supervisor Ed Edelman, joined the 11-member Board in 1975. On the right is George Takei, newly-elected Vice President, who has been a RTD Board member for five years. He is one of two members appointed by the mayor of Los Angeles.

Employees cast as film extras

RTD employees got a chance to break into show business and a behind-the-scenes glimpse into movie-making when they volunteered as extras in a RTD training film on the new accessible coaches for elderly and handicapped persons.

Beginning February 20, a total of seven days and two nights were spent shooting sequences at such varied locations as Westwood Village, Tarzana Convalescent Home, California State University Los Angeles busway stop, Division 9, the Sports Arena and the Criminal Courts Building. Persons in wheel chairs, an elderly passenger and a blind individual with a guide dog were filmed boarding, riding and disembarking from RTD buses, with the extras appearing in the background as passengers or passersby.

Upon final editing, the full sound and color film — as yet untitled — will run 20 to 25 minutes in length. Joann Bowman, Director of Training, explained that the purpose is to not only provide instructions on the use of the new bus equipment, but to also point out the importance and complexities involved in furnishing totally accessible bus service.

Operators, supervisors, special agents, telephone information clerks and other RTD employees will view it. It will also be shown to groups of elderly and handicapped persons and to segments of the general public, all of whom will be affected.

A 1974 District policy decision requires that all future buses be totally accessible. Besides the special lift and kneeling features, the buses will incorporate a public address system inside and outside. It will aid the operator in announcing line numbers and providing boarding and exiting instructions for the benefit of visually impaired, disabled and all other passengers.

Mascott Productions is handling the technical film production aspects, with employees from the Transportation, Personnel, Marketing, Safety and Planning departments lending their invaluable experience, ideas and time to the project.

The filming not only gave RTD's cast and crew operating information on the new lifts, but it also familiarized them with such common moviemaking dilemmas as shooting delays due to rainy weather and crowds of curious on-lookers among the public.



Camera crew, film stars, extras and on-lookers mingle while shooting scene in Tarzana.



"RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD" wasn't really being hummed by Jack Penwell in Operations, but it would have been an appropriate tune. As the record rainfall continued to pelt the Southland, a few leaks were detected in the roof above his office inside the leased District headquarters building. However, with wastebaskets doubling as rain buckets, Jack weathered the storm in his usual goodnatured style.

Exercise classes offer fun while 'fighting the flab'

"I enjoy it very much and I'm starting to feel and see results." - Michelle Kocuba, Legal Department.

"I feel rejuvenated after releasing tension from a day at the office." - Candy Richardson, Insurance Department.

"My expectation is to develop a total new person." — Bertha Wooley, General Services.

"It's very convenient and the price is right." — Suzanne Gifford, Legal Department.

"I'm firming up but having fun, too!" - Marta Espantman, Community Relations.

What all these enthusiastic employees are referring to is the regular exercise classes given at the District headquarters building every Wednesday and Thursday evening at 5 p.m.

Participants meet inside the employment office on the second floor for an hour of exercise performed to music and free-style

dancing. The classes are taught by Gil Sanders of the Insurance Department who described the workouts as moderate to heavy. All parts of the body are exercised without the use of machines. "It's fun fighting flab with such an enthusiastic and professional instructor as Gil,' commented Ginger Perez from Administration.

Both men and women from all RTD divisions and departments are invited to attend any of the sessions. There is no fee. Loose clothing should be worn.

The medical profession has long recommended the value of a steady exercise program. The results aren't visible overnight, but the mental and physical health benefits can be longrange. Perhaps the attitude of determination and commitment needed were best expressed by another class enthusiast, Diane Moran of Employee Relations.

"I wanted to firm up the fat. So far the fat's had a mind of its own. But I'm not going to give up on it, she vowed.



Sanders leads the group battling the bulge.

Off Roaders off to Texas Canyon

Mexicali was the destination of the RTD Off Roaders for the weekend of February 11 and 12 when they participated in the Southern California Off Road Enthusiasts (SCORE) Mexicali 300 Off Road Race.

As they had decided at their January meeting to operate checkpoints and course control for SCORE races occasionally, RTD's Off Roaders ran checkpoint number 8 by Highway 2. A checkpoint crew checks off each car number and marks their time at point. All vehicles must stop and pick up a tab which is put in a taped can.

All members who went thoroughly enjoyed the race and Mexico, although the weather was a bit chilly, reported Jerry Champagne, Club President.

The next SCORE event is April 8 and 9 at the Riverside Raceway. There are no checkpoints because this is a closed course. Spectators can witness the entire exciting event from the grandstands but the RTD Off Roaders will be in the pit area.

Also, during the weekend of April 15 and 16, the Off Roaders will have an outing in Texas Canyon, located about 25 miles from Los Angeles. Camping is free. There will be a big barbecue to highlight the fun with the Forest Service there.

All District employees and their families with a camper, tent or similar equipment who would like to spend a weekend with this RTD club are more than welcome, Champagne said. And they don't have to be into off roading to enjoy it, he added. Moreover, there are discount suppliers available for body work, parts, front en and frame repairs and acces sories for all types of vehicles.

More information can be obtained from Champagne at 213-771-3859 or a division club representative.



Club Vice President Lonnie Anders at checkpoint number 8.

Laughter Zone

By M. Ortiz

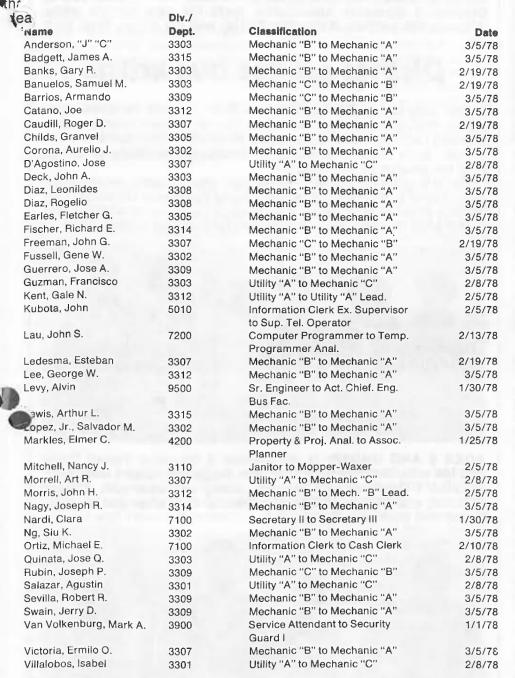


Schedule changes

Welcome aboard

	Div./		
Name	Dept.	Classification	Hired
Averitt, Alason Lydia	7200	Keypunch Operator	2/20/78
Bayless, Barbara Rose	7200	Keypunch Operator	2/2/78
Belcher, Marlene M.	7200	Keypunch Operator	2/27/78
Funk, Dean Steven	3315	Mechanic "B"	2/14/78
Grimes, Adiathia Danne	7200	Keypunch Operator	2/13/78
McAdoo, Gwendolyn	7200	Temp. Keypunch Operator	2/27/78
Moore, Alfred C.	3150	Superv. of Printing	2/27/78
Noval, Tito A.	7100	Staff Accountant	2/20/78
Scotland, Claris Maude	9100	Secretary II	2/13/78

Moving up



Shifting gears

	Div./			
Name	Dept.	Classification	Hired	Retired
Blue, Homer G.	3314	Mechanic "A"	8/23/54	2/24/78
Dambrun, Meryle B.	3209	Operator	12/18/45	2/22/78
Olu Gaul, Cyril L.	4200	Trans. Ping. Anal. II	1/18/34	2/28/78
ing aul, Isabelle G.	3212	Operator	11/30/50	3/1/78
Grisanti, Mario N.	3215	Operator	1/12/59	1/28/78
Hill, Harold J.	3209	Operator	10/9/67	2/25/78
Jeffus, "J" W.	3212	Operator	1/27/48	2/1/78
Patton, Otha R.	3302	Mechanic Road Inst.	8/22/45	3/1/78
Thomas, Hubert C.	3309	Mechanic "A" Leadman	7/22/57	2/27/78
Wise, Frank W.	3202	Operator	3/28/38	2/3/78
Yocas, Peter P.	3312	Equip. Records Spec.	2/25/47	3/1/78

In memoriam

Name Beardsley, Jay E.	Div./ Dept. 3201	Classification Former Operator Retired 8/1/62	Deceased 2/16/78
Brennan, Alban I.	3202	Former Division Dispatcher Retired 6/1/67	2/22/78
Chavez, Agapito	3334	Former Laborer Retired 6/1/53 Former Supervisor of Vehicle Operations Retired 6/1/69	1/21/78
Farrell, William P.	3296		2/24/78
Kriewald, Sherman C.	3310	Former Foreman Retired 12/1/52	2/14/78
Nolan, Raymond S.	3314	Former Mechanic Retired 12/29/72	1/29/78



Officer Funk instructs RTD employees on fending off assailants.

Self-defense 'how to' provided

"I can't tell you never to submit or never to fight to the death," said Officer Gary Funk of the Los Angeles Police Department. "And you won't know what you're going to do until you're in that situation," he told the 60 or more RTD employees attending the March 6 class on self-defense.

The best protection against rape, assault and similar crimes, he stressed, was to avoid potentially dangerous situations. Don't walk alone at night on any streets, never hitchhike and "don't assume anybody is a good guy" were part of his common sense prescription for personal safety.

The evening session, held inside the Parker Center Auditorium in downtown Los Angeles, was arranged by the RTD Recreation Department particularly for women employees, but there was a sprinkling of men there also.

Once a woman finds herself in precarious circumstances, "the only way to avert attack is by inflicting pain," he said. The eyes, groin, kneecaps, and nose are the most sensitive targets to aim for.

"It gives you an opportunity to get away" but it probably won't immobilize the assailant for very long, he cautioned.

Officer Funk's lecture was interspersed with questions from the audience as well as demonstrations of some basic defense maneuvers.

Among the techniques he covered was using a shoe heel to jab the top of the attacker's kneecap and then slice along the shin. Grinding a heel into the foot, bending the attacker's knee sideways to sever the kneecap, striking the groin with a fist or an elbow, smashing the nose with a flat palm, and poking the eyes with two spread fingers were also demonstrated. And biting, particularly to avoid being gagged, can be effective.

Audience members then paired up and tried out the maneuvers under Funk's direction.

Practice the movements at home and "never assume anyone

is going to come to your aid," he advised them.

But sometimes resisting may not be the answer. It might be wiser to submit or try to talk the attacker out of his goals. Again, he stressed the course of action would have to be determined at the crucial moment. "But if you decide to do something against a weapon, you better do it fast," he urged.

On the question of liability in injuring an attacker, "if you're in fear of your life, there's nothing in the Penal Code that says you can't protect yourself by whatever means reasonable," the officer explained. "But the key word is reasonable." A woman shouldn't over-react to a non-hostile advance by permanently maiming the person.

Among the other suggestions offered women by the police:

- Check windows and other reflective surfaces to observe who's crossing the street or following you.
- When leaving work at night, never walk through the parking lot unaccompanied.
- Have keys ready so doors can be opened quickly.
- When driving, keep your car in gear while waiting at intersections and keep the doors locked.
- Check the back seat before entering an unlocked vehicle.

Attention retirees . . .

In response to many requests, Headway will soon begin publishing a news column devoted to RTD retirees. If you're a former District employee and would like to keep current and other retired RTD employees informed as to your whereabouts and activities, send your news item to: Headway Editor, 6th Floor, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.

Please include the date of your retirement, your last work location and job title with the District, and a current telephone number.



A DELICIOUS RENDITION of King Tut in the form of a pineapple cake was created by Donna Ness, Administrative Assistant in the Marketing and Communications Department. A talented cake-maker, she created her own mold for this project. The goal was to honor the February birthdays of five persons in her department — Anthony Fortuno, Jim Abernethy, Dick Dimon, Bill Reason and Ray Garcia. Ness said she chose the King Tut theme to tie in with the current exhibit at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and RTD's own promotion of its bus service to the cultural event.

RTD program trains, gains six new Mechanics 'C'

The RTD's Mechanic Training Program graduated six more employees during ceremonies on February 24 at the headquarters building.

Jose D'Agostino, Francisco Guzman, Art R. Morrell, Agustin Salazar, Jose Quinata and Isabel Diaz Villalobos received certificates after completing both phases of the indepth classroom/on-the-job training curriculum to elevate themselves from a bus service position to mechanic "C."

Presiding at the ceremonies were Jack Gilstrap, General Manager; Jerry Long, President, Amalgamated Transit Union; Sam Black, Acting Manager of Operations; George Wells,

General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; and Byron Lewis, Director of Personnel. Each personally congratulated the graduates and discussed the professional challenges and rewards awaiting the new mechanics.

Also present was Earl Morey, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor I, who is in charge of the classroom instruction and coordination of the on-the-job training. The on-the-job portion involves working under the supervision of a mechanic "A" with evaluations of the students' progress made frequently.

The program is offered yearly on a rotating evening/daytime basis to qualified, interested maintenance employees.



At the graduation (from left): Villalobos, Wells, Long, Quinata, Morey, Salazar, Morrell, D'Agostino, Guzman, Black, Gilstrap.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER: A delighted Alex John Kukla, son of Division 3 Operator Alex Kukla, tests his new bicycle while Wilkens; his mother, Katherine Kukla; and his sister, Erin, look on.

District salutes bus artists

The winners in RTD's "Color A Bus" contest received their prizes during a brief ceremony at the downtown headquarters building recently. Both the youthful artists and their families were invited. John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations, presided over the awards presentation.

For the coloring contest, three age groups were established, with tickets to Disneyland, Knott's Betty Farm and Universal City Studios presented to the winners in each category. In addition, the grand prize of a bicycle was awarded for the best overall entry.



AGES 6 AND UNDER: (L-R) Division 5 Operator Terrell Davis and his wife, Melrose with their son, Reginald; Robert Gonzalez, Division 1 Operator with his wife, Kathy and their son, Steven; Wilkens; and Division 7 Operator Delmar E. Walker and his wife, Carol with their son, Derek.



AGES 7 TO 11: (L-R) Division 8 Mechanic John R. Cavette, his wife, Christine and daughter, Cherie; Jesus B. Saldana, Division 8 Operator, with his daughter, Wendy; Operator Donald Powell of Division 6 with his son, Kenneth; and Wilkens.



AGES 12 TO 14: (L-R) Lisa Banks with her mother, Janiece M. Banks of Data Processing; Dinamaria Carneal, daughter of Division 3 Operator Robert L. Carneal, with her brother, Robert; Trudy Holloway with her son, Vincent, and Operator Clifton Holloway; and Wilkens.

Guarding RTD: Psychology with a smile

Each weekday when about 700 employees begin reporting to work at RTD's headquarters building, the first person they're likely to address with "Good morning" won't be their boss or a department co-worker. Instead, it's probably one of nine armed security guards assigned to the desk inside the main lobby.

Like the kindly police department desk sergeant portrayed in the old Hollywood movies, RTD's guards cheerfully greet the regular employees, screen visitors, keep logs, give directions and perform many other duties.

"We're multi-purpose," exained Security Guard Jess Stevenson. While the protection of District property and personnel is foremost, he said they also

"I know he's always there to back me up if I need him."

function as reception desk, information center and even as parking lot attendants in directing traffic for the building parking stalls.

The busiest hours arrive at 10 a.m. when the Credit Union opens and there's an almost con-

stant flow of people into the building. "The carpet should be worn out between the Credit Union and the Cashier's Office, especially on pay day," Stevenson noted.

Besides the employees working inside the building, the guards encounter a variety of

Some employees call them periodically for weather reports.

other persons. A transit official scheduled to attend a Board meeting, a woman inquiring about Lost and Found, a customer with a service complaint, a bus operator with a medical appointment, delivery truck drivers headed for the cafeteria, or a prospective employee reporting for an interview are all guided to the correct destination.

Essentially, much of it boils down to "good public relations," said Dick Kelso, Chief Special Agent. Meeting so many persons daily, the friendly, helpful way the guards respond to assistance requests leaves a favorable impression of RTD.

A large part of their success lies in their rapport with the employees, public, Los Angeles



Security Guards Hendricks (center) and Stevenson point visitor in right direction.

Police Department footbeat officers patrolling the surrounding area, and even with local merchants and residents. Security Guard Kathy Skellie said one neighborhood tenant drops by to say hello and leaves reading material for her when she's on duty at night.

That same rapport is shared among the two-guard teams. "We have a mutual respect for one another," Stevenson said about fellow Security Guard Al Hendricks. "I know he's always there to back me up if I need him."

In addition to manning the main desk, there is an assortment of other duties. A small room in back is equipped with several closed circuit cameras monitoring activities at two El Monte busway stops. If security problems arise, they immediately notify the Dispatch Center. Similar cameras are being in-

in their line of work, a photographic mind is almost a necessity.

stalled on each floor inside the headquarters building for even tighter security.

The guards also escort grateful employees to their parked cars after dark. And because there are no windows in the upper floors of the building, some employees call them periodically for weather reports.

"It starts raining and our phone starts ringing," said Security Guard Hendricks, who's regularly assigned on the weekday shift. While they always oblige, it can tie up their emergency phone designated for official business only, he pointed out.

At night the pace slows, particularly between 1 and 4 a.m. But because there are always some employees working around the clock, all of them have to be signed in and out. Early morning deliveries and routine fire and

security checks made on each floor help fill the hours.

In their line of work, a photographic mind is almost a necessity. They not only get to know the regular employees by sight and often by first name, but they recognize many of the regular guests and other officials coming to RTD headquarters.

But among the unfamiliar visitors, they have to separate those with legitimate business from those seeking entrance for other purposes. A little psychology can come in handy.

"You have to be very careful," said Skellie. "I ask them if they have an appointment and then if

Then there was another male visitor who began doing yoga in the employee cafeteria.

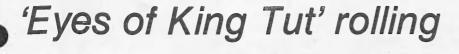
they hesitate, I ask them more

questions." On occasion an individual succeeds in convincing the guards of honorable intentions, proceeds upstairs and reveals ulterior, unexpected motives. The guards recalled one quiet-mannered, well-dressed gentleman in a business suit who asked for Customer Relations. He went upstairs, got down on his knees and began reciting Hamlet. Then there was another male visitor who began doing yoga in the employee cafeteria. Each guard has several such colorful anecdotes. In such instances, they escort the unwanted guest to the

Not all the unwanted visitors seeking admittance to the building are humorous or even harmless. If a situation arises that may be potentially dangerous, the guards call in the police department to have the would-be intruders arrested.

But asked what they enjoyed most about their work, each of the security guards interviewed mentioned contact with people.

"You meet a lot of truly interesting persons," Hendricks said, "the complete top and bottom from all walks of life. It's a fascinating job."



The "eyes of King Tut" are upon Los Angeles and moving regularly down Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue — via District buses.

Ten RTD buses assigned to Lines 83 and 89 carry full-length, colorful, Egyptian-style murals on the sides and rear of their exteriors. Their acrylic covering features a bold yellow, orange, turquoise and black King Tut design, tied into the exciting Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibit which opened in Los Angeles on February 15.

The object is to let the public know that RTD can transport them quickly and easily to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to see these intriguing art objects.

The unique bus design, developed by artist Norm Gollam of Transit Ads, Inc., not only helps local residents identify the bus routes going to the museum, but it also reminds them that public transportation is a desirable alternative to the traffic and parking difficulties that can accompany this popular cultural event.

The acrylic covering is similar to that used previously for commercial ads on District buses, but this is the first time this concept has been used for an artistic design exclusively.

RTD's "King Tut buses" will continue to capture attention along these two major city streets through June 15, 1978, when the exhibit leaves Los Angeles.



RTD puts King Tut on wheels on Lines 83 and 89.

Recreation news:

All-Star basketball squad challenges celebrity team

The basketball courts inside the Van Nuys High School gymnasium will be transformed into an action-packed, suspensefilled scene on Saturday, April 29 when RTD's All-Star basketball squad challenge Johnny Brown's KLAC celebrity team at the Second Annual All-Star Basketball Game.

Last year RTD's top players were narrowly defeated in a hard-fought battle that ended 100-92 in favor of KLAC. But this year the prospects of achieving a victory are much greater, said Bill Hernandez, RTD Sports Commissioner and Manager of the All-Stars. "We know what to expect as far as opposition," he explained. And with more practice and experience behind the team, he's very optimistic about the outcome.

The 12-member RTD All-Stars squad is composed of two leading players from each of six divisional teams, chosen by their fellow players and team manager. "We have some excellent shooters and other players returning this year, and we'll have some new faces," Hernandez said.

RTD's cheerleaders will be there to rally team spirit and during half-time the District's musical group will entertain the crowds. Refreshments will be available.

Last year's fast-paced competition brought a crowd of several hundred employees and families to witness the action. Once again everyone is welcome to attend this year's game at no cost. But because seating is limited, tickets must be secured in advance.

At 7:30 p.m. the doors will open, with the game beginning about 8 o'clock. The location is the boys' gym, Van Nuys High School, 6535 Cedros Avenue, Van Nuys.

* * *

April brings another longawaited District sports event. At 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 30, RTD's golfers will tee off at the Green River Golf Course at 5215 Green River Drive in Corona for the Biannual Golf Tournament.

Four flights are being established: championship, first, second, and third. The top two winners in each flight will receive a trophy and gift certificate good for a purchase at a golf pro shop. And to make certain none of the participants go home emptyhanded, other prizes will be awarded.

All District employees and retirees who are golf enthusiasts are invited to enter the tournament. As in past years, a dual handicap system will be used. The championship flight will use established club handicaps, while all others will be under the Callaway system.

The entry fee is \$10 which covers the greens fee and helps defray the cost of trophies and prizes. Sign-up sheets will be posted at the Recreation Department bulletin boards located throughout the District. Participants will receive in advance their tee-off times and directions to the golf course. Moreover, every effort will be made to accommodate those requesting particular foursomes.



BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR RTD? Birthdays and anniversaries of employees are observed regularly among friends throughout the District, but the chocolate banana cake enjoyed by the Planning Department on March 3, 1978 honored RTD's own birthday. Exactly 20 years earlier, the Metropolitan Transit Authority — RTD's predecessor — became an operating agency, marking the first public ownership of transit in greater Los Angeles

The Green River Golf Course has deluxe facilities, including pro shop, golf cart rentals and fine dining areas. Family members and guests of RTD golfers are welcome to come along and share this day of birdies, bogies and friendly competition.

* * *

Even closer this month timewise is RTD week at the famous Movieland Wax Museum and Palace of Living Art. Between April 8 and 16, employees and their families can purchase discounted admission tickets to "the biggest gathering of stars in the world." For just \$4.20 per adult and \$2.75 for each child between 4 and 11 years of age, the uncanny likenesses of over 235 favorite stars from Groucho Marx to Robert Redford can be viewed in settings from their most famous film roles.

Many of the costumes are the original outfits worn by the stars. And special lighting and sound effects enhance the realistic quality. Allow about two hours to enjoy Movieland and the Palace of Living Art on the self-guided tour.

Movieland Wax Museum is located at 7711 Beach Boulevard in Buena Park, just one block north of Knott's Berry Farm. Parking is free.

* * *

On Saturday morning, May 6, the Amtrak train carrying RTD employees and families to San Diego for the Sea World excursion will leave Union Station in downtown Los Angeles at 7:30 a.m. The day-long visit at this fascinating entertainment park includes six major shows and 25 exhibits.

The return train departs from San Diego at 4:30 p.m. and arrives back in Los Angeles at approximately 7 p.m. A substantial discount off of the regular prices has been arranged by the Recreation Department at \$22 per adult and \$12 per child under 12 years of age. Those prices in-

clude Amtrak fare, transportation to and from Sea World and admission to the many Sea World attractions.

* * *

A nine-day fiesta tour of romantic Mexico has been packaged in an exciting and economical way for District employees. Departing May 20, the jet flies directly to Mexico City where a fiesta cocktail party at the Emporio Hotel begins the holiday. The itinerary includes a Mexican ballet, bullfight, yacht cruise of Acapulco Bay, thrilling high divers' show, and sightseing at numerous gardens, palaces and marketplaces in such historic locales as Taxco, Cuernavaca, Toluca and Ixtapan de la Sal.

The \$344 per person price includes round trip air transportation, hotel accommodations with private bath in the various resort hotels, surface transportation for the sightseeing tours, entrance fees and special events. Deadline for receipt of the \$25 per person deposit is April 7.

* * *

A new supply of the popular RTD tee shirts has just arrived to keep pace with the continual demand. For just two dollars, a colorful tee shirt silk-screened with the familiar RTD logo can be purchased in either small, medium, large or extra large size through the Recreation Department.

* * *

The District's musical group is going strong and new members with an ear for music are still welcome to join. Just drop by any of their weekly Monday night practice sessions beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the headquarters building.

* * *

It's not too early to make plans to attend RTD's Second Annual Picnic, set for Sunday, August 27 at Calamigos Picnic Ranch in

(Please turn to page 10)



THE LATEST DIVISIONAL WINNER in the District's incentive program to reduce the number of road calls was Division 2. To reward the transportation and maintenance personnel there whose work helped realize that goal, a drawing was held for admission tickets to Knott's Berry Farm. Shown above are two of the employees whose names were drawn. On left, Division 2 Maintenance Manager Frank Abroson congratulates Raymond J. Krill, Mechanic "A," while Transportation Manager Wes McCarns (far right) presents the prize to Operator Orlando J. Pardo. The other Division 2 employees awarded tickets were Utility "A" Arnold Abeyta, Operator Willie Gary and Operator Anthony J. Melton.

71 years' work come to memorable close

Last February several hundred RTD employees were honored for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and even 40 years of service.

A few weeks later a separate ceremony inside the Board Room commemorated over 71 years' employment. But that record wasn't achieved by an individual. Rather it represented the collective seniority earned by a special pair of employees. Cyril L. "Ted" Gaul of the Planning Department and Operator Isabelle Gaul retired together from RTD on Feb. 28, 1978, ending two long-term careers devoted to public transit.

Ted laughed when he recalled hat he started his career with the lea it was temporary. "It was just ing to pay my way through law school. I never thought I'd stay."

A native of Idaho, Ted started at the Los Angeles Railway as a conductor on Jan. 18, 1934. He later became a motorman, operator and then rail and coach supervisor for 23 years. Following his recovery stemming from a non-chargeable accident, he was unable to resume his previous

duties so Ted was assigned as a telephone information clerk.

During the ensuing years Ted proved his versatility by becoming a mileage clerk in the Schedules Department, a schedule builder and then special events coordinator prior to his transfer to the Planning Department in 1969. On April 28, 1975, he was promoted to transportation planning analyst II, a position he held until his retirement.

Canadian-born Isabelle came to California in 1923. She joined the Los Angeles Transit Lines on Nov. 30, 1950, working as a conductor, street car operator and bus operator at Division 5. In 1960 she transferred to the Redondo Terminal and subsequently worked at several other locations before completing at Division 12 more than 27 years of service. She was selected as Bus Operator of the Month in August, 1976.

In recognition of their longevity, the Gauls received a special plaque and congratulatory message from the



Ted Gaul wraps up his last assignment for Planning Dept.

Board of Directors on February 23. A few days later, the Planning Department gave the Gauls and their children and grandchildren a buffet lunch in the head-quarters building, complete with three giant cakes. A commemorative poster, retirement scroll and wristwatch were given to Ted, along with heartwarming speeches from co-workers and supervisors recalling some memorable moments at work.

More happy memories were made on Isabelle's last day driving Line 872. Waiting with the regular passengers at 7th and Pacific were several RTD staff members, newspaper photographers and a KNBC-TV camera crew. As the group boarded her bus, Ted suddenly appeared from behind a building and presented his astonished wife with a bouquet of flowers and a kiss. That touching moment was replayed for the public on Channel 4 News that evening.

It was a busy week for the couple. Besides their retirement, the parties, publicity and awards presentation, they celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on February 24.

The couple met at the Los Angeles Railway in 1936, where Isabelle was working as a cashier at the Car Barn Cafe at Division 3. They have two sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

The Gauls are now looking forward to traveling in their recreational vehicle. But retiring from a company after all those years isn't all joy. They both acknowledge they're going to miss the District and their long-time friends.

Perhaps it was best summed up by Isabelle a few days before her last run out of Division 12. "I love my job. I love working with people and driving the buses. I'm going to miss it," she predicted with a sad smile.



Isabelle Gaul before her final pullout from Div. 12.

Layover zone:

Martinez well-versed in art of poetry

By day Data Control Specialist Mary Martinez watches an endless amount of information about RTD get processed on computer cards. On weekends and evenings she converts her own ideas, memories and feelings into a much different form, poetry.

A wide array of emotions and events are the subjects of this employee's poems, ranging from the familiar antics of her 5-year-old son to an elderly stranger siting on a park bench.

One written for her grandfather included the stanzas:

"As the years went by,
I grew up and left my home,
And now I have a husband,
With children of my own.

I miss you, Grandpa, And if I could turn back time, I would sit upon your lap again, And have you read a rhyme.

But Grandpa you are far away, And I know it's not the same, I only wish that I could hear That same voice call my name."

Not all of her poems are standard rhymes. Sometimes she writes in free verse, at other times it's limericks. Martinez said her favorite time and place to write poetry is in her living room after her son is in bed. She turns on the music low, sinks into the sofa and starts writing.



THE POETIC MUSE STRIKES Mary Martinez of Data Processing often. When she's not recording her thoughts in rhyme or free verse form, she may be reading the works of other poets during her spare time. She views poetry writing mostly as a means of self-expression and discovery, but sometimes she'll write poems for her RTD co-workers and other friends as gifts commemorating special ocassions.

But because feelings can't be forced, most often the poetic inspiration hits randomly. She recalled one instance when she was standing over the kitchen sink, gazing at a plate that had been a gift. Martinez grabbed a paper towel and began composing a poem about friendship.

Her thoughts are quickly jotted down, before the mood fades, on whatever's available — scraps of notebook paper, newspapers, old invoices and even the back of computer cards. "I write on anything I can get ahold of," she said, laughing. "I get very disturbed when I can't get a thought down on paper right away."

While the inspiration may come easily, at times the right words don't immediately fall into place. The same poem may be reworked four or five times. It's a rare occasion when the first draft completely satisfies her.

Writing poetry is like keeping a diary, she continued. "It's what happened to me, my acquaintances, the places I've been." It also provides insight into personal development. "After writing and later reading it, I'm more intune with myself. I see more of my faults as I go through it."

While she's been writing poetry for six years, she's never sought to have any published. "I guess I'm afraid of the door being slammed in my face" by a rejection, she explained. But she hopes one day to collect all of her best pieces, now scattered throughout her home, into a book.

For the time being, she seeks the "honest" opinion of friends and relatives. But she's somewhat reluctant about her husband's evaluations. "He says I'm a romanticist and very sensitive. I cry at sad movies on TV and even at songs," she admitted. But being more sensitive and aware are two critical qualities of a poet, Martinez pointed out.

Sometimes the poems she writes about family members and acquaintances become special gifts. When a former supervisor in Data Processing retired, Martinez wrote a poem for her to be presented at her party. But the poet had to have someone else finish reading it aloud.

"I couldn't read it. The party was in the employee cafeteria. It was very crowded and I got quite embarassed," she recalled with a shy smile.

MAKING HEADURY

Tyrone M. Fordham, Division 7 Operator, proudly announced that his wife, Rifka, emerged a big winner after appearing as a contestant on the "Price Is Right" show. Among the prizes she won were \$1,000 cash, a dinette set and a service tray. The show aired last March 8.

There was another big scorer among employees' wives lately. Division 2 Supervisor David Biehn reported that his wife, Carolyn, bowled 292 with her handicap in the Moose League during February.

Fourteen years of marriage were celebrated by Henry Castaneda and his wife, Mary, on February 26. They and their 13-year-old son, Mike, live in Boyle Heights. A Division 15

operator, Henry has just completed eight years of service with RTD.

Operator Bob Blocker of Division 3 and his wife, Reyna, joined the ranks of proud parents when their first child, Lucas Matthew, was born on March 4 at Kaiser Hospital. He weighed in at a healthy 7 lbs., 10 oz.

Harold Kent, Division 8 Operator, and his wife, Ellyn, announced with "relief" the birth of a boy, Jonathan Robert III. He has two sisters, Kimberly, 8 years old, and Jessica, 3. The new addition to their family arrived on February 20, weighed over 6½ lbs. and was 19 inches tall.



EARLY APRIL IS the expected delivery date of the first child of Debra Baird of the Telephone Information Department and her husband, Steve. They'll be better prepared to meet the challenges of parenthood, following the baby shower and numerous gifts given the couple on February 24 by friends in the Telephone Information Department. Debra, a District employee for six years, is the daughter of the late A. F. Leahy, RTD Instructor, and sister of Mike Leahy in Operations and Art Leahy in Administration. From left: Steve, Debra, Karen Lea, Brenda Miley and Marie Tervalon.



HONORED AS AN "OUTSTANDING GRADUATE" by the Los Angeles Job Corps Center was Information Operator Larry Hidalgo (center). The awards presentation was made at a reunion of all L.A. Job Corps graduates with the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC) and the placement of the 500th BRAC graduate. Hidalgo, an RTD employee for two years, was chosen to represent BRAC graduates for 1975. The BRAC program is one of a number of training programs provided by the L.A. Job Corps. He's pictured here with Robert Taggart, Ill (right), director of the nation's youth projects for the U.S. Dept. of Labor and Lyle Burkhart (left), director of the BRAC training program.



NO ONE KNOWS FOR CERTAIN how many married couples first met at RTD, but another pair of employees were added to that category on Saturday, February 18. Telephone Information Operator Michelle R. Nixon wed Richard Rondell Dodson, former Information Operator and now Truckdriver-Clerk at the South Park Shops. The day prior to the ceremony, a shower was given in the headquarters building by the Telephone Information Department, where the couple shared cake and other refreshments with their friends from work.

Recreation

(Continued from page 8)

Malibu. The huge crowd that turned out last year will recall a fun-filled day of volleyball, baseball, ice cream, canoeing, swimming, fishing, relay races, barbecued lunch and much more. This summer's event promises to be even bigger and better!

* * *

For reservations and ticket information on any of these events and excursions, call Betty in the Recreation Department at ext. 6580.

Feeling left out?

You're not receiving Headway at home each month? If you're a District employee who has moved recently, a change of address form must be filed with your department or division. That information will be forwarded to the Personnel Department where Headway's mailing list is maintained.

District retirees who are not receiving Headway regularly should contact the Personnel Department at 972-6382.

Glad tidings!

Employee Name:

Badge No.:

Home phone:

Event:

Date Occurred:

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. Black-and-white photographs are also welcome.

-HEAD WAY

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