



HEAD



WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

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Minibuses rolling out of Terminal 23



Mechanic "B" Cal Clenard refuels minibus at new terminal

The District acquired a new terminal last month as RTD began minibus service in the Pomona Valley area in eastern Los Angeles County on Monday, January 9.

Terminal #23, situated on the southwest corner of Towne Avenue and the San Bernardino Freeway, was established to fuel, clean, store and do minor repairs on the 11 regular and two spare minibuses assigned there.

The minibus service was started at the request of officials from the cities of Claremont, Pomona, and La Verne because large portions of these routes, previously served by regular RTD buses, go through residential areas.

The District has leased the location, a former Mobil Oil gasoline station, on a six-month trial basis. Research by RTD Operations showed it would decrease deadheading mileage and costs to have the minibuses operate out of the new terminal rather than pull out of Division 9 in El Monte.

Twenty operators from Division 9 drive the minibuses over

routes 451/453 and 452/454 on weekdays at half-hour intervals. Line 451 operates basically along Garey Avenue and Line 453 covers Reservoir Street and Indian Hill Boulevard.

Line 452 runs primarily along Arroyo, Orange Grove and White avenues; Mission Boulevard; and San Antonio and San Bernardino avenues. Line 454's route covers Arrow Highway; Orange Grove, Garey and Towne avenues; and Lexington and West 9th streets.

Terminal #23 is operated as a satellite division, similar to that in Santa Ana. One utility "A" and one mechanic "B" do the fueling, cleaning and minor maintenance work needed.

This new Pomona service means that all of RTD's 59 minibuses are assigned to service. Minibuses are also used in downtown Los Angeles; portions of San Pedro; Westwood; Glassell Park, Highland Park, South Pasadena and El Monte; the Los Angeles International Airport shuttle; and Granada Hills. They operate out of Divisions 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12.

Employees' children brighten District buses

RTD buses never looked so splendid and striking as those colored for the Recreation Department's "Color A Bus" contest.

Over 100 imaginative entries poured in after the black-and-white drawing of an RTD bus appeared in the December issue of Headway, with an invitation to all District employees' sons, daughters, stepchildren, and grandchildren 14 years old and under to enter.

Many of the budding artists exhibited their knowledge of RTD by adding special touches like drawing faces in the bus windows, writing in head signs or assigning numbers to the coaches. Crayons, pencils, watercolors, marking pens and even glitter were used to dress up the transit scene.

In awarding prizes, three age groups were established: 6 years and under; 7 through 11 years; and 12 through 14. First prize in each age category was Disneyland ticket books for the winning artist and his/her parents. Tickets to Knott's Berry Farm were awarded to each second place winner and their parents, while third place honors

brought Universal City Studios passes to each winner and parents.

In addition, a grand prize of a bicycle was established for the best overall effort, considering age, originality and imagination.

The four judges were Linda

Glidewell, freelance journalist and former Los Angeles Herald-Examiner fashion and beauty editor; Paul Bickerdyke, graphic designer; Willie P. Mears, photo editor for the South Bay Daily Breeze; and Nancy Saathoff, University of California, Santa Barbara art student.

Describing the entries as "outstanding," they had the difficult task of selecting the best. Neatness, creative technique, eye-catching use of color and attention to detail were the criteria, while considering the artist's age, Glidewell explained.

After careful deliberation, they selected Alex John Kukla, 9-year-old son of Alex Kukla, Division 3 Operator, as the grand prize winner. "Interesting use of color and texture," particularly in his use of shading and dot patterns, were cited.

The remainder of the judging results were:

SIX AND UNDER

First place: Reginald Garrod Davis, age 6, son of Division 5 Operator Terrell Davis.

Second place: Steven Gonzalez, age 6, son of Robert Gonzalez, Division 1 Operator.

Third place: Derek Walker, 5 years old, son of Delmar E. Walker, Division 7 Operator.

7 TO 11 YRS.

First place: Cherie Cavette, 10 years old, daughter of John R.



Winning entries exhibited in headquarters employee cafeteria

(Continued on page 10)



DONNING COLORFUL TEE SHIRTS reading "Your Credit Union is a friend for life," the ladies photographed here were helping promote a life insurance program offered to District employees who belong to the credit union. In the first row (from left) are: Yolanda Valdez, Mary Hirth, Leticia Gallegos and Hyla Howard. Second row (from left): Wanda S. Gonzales, Lottie A. Gage and Robbie Varcados. In addition, the credit union reported it paid six per cent interest plus one per cent bonus for 1977's third and fourth quarters to employees with regular passbook savings accounts there.



Outstanding work cited

At their December meeting, the District's Board of Directors singled out several more employees whose job performance had earned them special recognition. The three newest additions to RTD's "honor scroll" as Employees of the Month were Operator Henry W. Morrissey of Division 11; Bruno Falcon Jr., Mechanic "A" at Division 12; and Information Operator Drew Forrest.

Operator Morrissey's work record boasts a 26-year safety award. He has earned the maximum of 60 merits and his absence of missouts and accidents provide further proof of why he was chosen for the honor. His supervisors reported many compliments have been received about this operator's smooth ride, friendly disposition and genuine concern for the RTD customers.

Bruno Falcon Jr., Maintenance Employee of the Month, is another employee whose attitude makes him stand out. As a Mechanic "A", he takes pride in his work and is very thorough in all phases of his job, including the administrative tasks. His maintenance manager further reported that he's a great team worker and is particularly helpful to his younger, less experienced co-workers.

Information Operator of the Month Drew Forrest has been noted not only for his above average attendance record, but also for his efficiency. He is able to work quickly while responding carefully to each caller's questions. Many persons have commended him for his speed and precision in quoting the schedule, fare and routing information sought.

Director Thomas Neusom made the awards presentation to the three employees. Pictured here from left: George Marsala, Division 1-11 Transportation Manager; Morrissey; Neusom; Rose Mays, Supervisor, accepting on behalf of Forrest; Robert Williams, Manager of Customer Relations; Falcon; and Floyd Hughes, Division 12 Maintenance Manager.

Schedule changes

Welcome aboard

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Hired
Baca, Edward	3307	Mechanic "B"	12/18/77
Curby, Debbie Renall	7100	Clerk Typist	12/27/77
Flores, Fausto	3306	Mechanic "B"	12/12/77
Garcia, Fred	7200	Data Processor Operator	12/19/77
Garcia, Henry Jimmy	3306	Mechanic "B"	12/27/77
Hardimon, Eddie Lee	3305	Mechanic "B"	12/29/77
Law, Carl Gerald	3312	Mechanic "B"	12/15/77
Ramos, Miguel Angel	3307	Mechanic "B"	12/28/77
Ruffin, George Lee	3302	Electrician	12/12/77
Ugalde, Mario Alvaro	3307	Mechanic "B"	12/25/77

Moving Up

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Date
Bailey, Leilia M.	3205	Division Dispatcher to Div. Disp.-Ex. Asst. Div. Trans. Manager	12/11/77
Clark, Leonard W.	3306	Shipping Clerk to Storekeeper	12/25/77
Dear, Marsha A.	7100	Keypunch Operator to Cash Clerk	12/11/77
Gamboa, Oscar C.	7300	Timetables Clerk to Trving. Strkpr.	12/19/77
Howard, Jr., John H.	3314	Jr. Stock Clerk to Temp. Stock Clerk	12/20/77
King, Phillis P.	7300	Kardex Clerk to Jr. Price Clerk	12/25/77
Leahy, Michael O.	3099	Personnel Analyst to Operations Analyst	12/15/77
Lee, Rosa S.	7100	Keypunch Operator to Temp. Accounts Clerk	12/5/77
Maguire, Harry P.	3299	Sr. Staff Assistant to Sr. St. Asst.-Ex. Asst. Div. Trans. Manager	12/11/77
Martin, Karen L.	3312	Jr. Price Clerk to Storekeeper	12/25/77
Martinez, Mary	7200	Keypunch Operator to Data Control Specialist	12/11/77
Mitchell, Shirley J.	5050	Mopper-Waxer to Information Clerk	12/5/77
Neal, Jr., John W.	3215	Operator to Op.-Ex. Asst. Div. Trans. Mgr.	12/11/77
Pinter, Joellen K.	3307	Sr. Price Clerk to Storekeeper	1/2/78
Reedy, Ronnie A.	3202	Operator to Op.-Ex. Asst. Div. Trans. Mgr.	12/11/77
Smith, Alvin L.	3297	Op. Ex. Instr. V.O. to Instructor of V.O.	12/11/77
Tincher, John A.	3215	Division Dispatcher to Div. Dis.-Ex. Asst. Div. Trans. Manager	12/11/77
Varrie, Jesse A.	7300	Buyer-Salvage Agent to Asst. Mgr. of Stores	12/28/77
Vester, Ricki F.	3500	Schedule Typist to Temp. Varitype-Layout Operator	12/18/77
Wilson, Ralph	3299	Staff Asst. II to St. Asst. II-Ex. Asst. Div. Trans. Manager	12/11/77

Shifting gears

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Burr, Gordon W.	3210	Operator	10/7/47	12/7/77
Fach, Frederick C.	3212	Operator	12/5/42	12/16/77
Lees, Earl L.	3215	Operator	2/9/56	12/20/77
Mohawk, Frank C.	3209	Operator	6/26/45	12/27/77
Parker, George W.	3208	Operator	12/10/52	12/21/77
Ramsey, Vincent J.	3207	Operator	5/13/42	12/16/77
Tessandori, Annie B.	7100	Revenue Clerk	12/10/51	12/16/77
Warburton, Edward J.	3207	Operator	9/25/44	12/15/77
Wisler, Curtis W.	3210	Operator	6/14/39	11/30/77

In memorium

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Adams, Joseph M.	7300	Former Sr. Clerk Retired 6/1/69	12/22/77
Baldwin, Walter G.	—	Former Operator on Union Leave Retired 3/1/69	11/11/77
Grotholdt, Arthur P.	3302	Former Electrician Retired 7/28/58	12/3/77
Hobbis, Byron R.	3212	Former Operator Retired 6/1/70	12/1/77
Keup, William H.	3209	Former Operator Retired 11/1/75	12/13/77
Snyder, Franklin P.	7100	Former Cashier & Asst. Treasurer Retired 11/25/56	12/5/77

You're newsworthy!

Are you an accomplished handwriting analyst? Organic zucchini gardener? Composer of lyrical limericks? Antique bottle collector? District employees with an unusual or interesting hobby or skill are invited to fill out the card below and return it to Headway, Location 32, via company mail for possible future feature story coverage in the "Layover Zone."

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



EXAMINING ONE OF THE GIFTS presented to him at his retirement party is Ronnie Mason, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor II at Division 18. He began with the Los Angeles Transit Lines 32 years ago and now plans to "play it by ear" and perhaps visit Tucson. Friends, family, co-workers and RTD management turned out on December 16 to wish him well. From left: George Heinle, Manager of Operations; Mason; Milton Spencer, Maintenance Manager at Division 18; and George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment.



TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF SERVICE to the District and its predecessor agencies were saluted on December 16 when Barbara Tessandori, Revenue Clerk, retired. A party in the downtown headquarters building brought together many of her long-time friends from Accounting and other RTD departments. Tessandori began with the Pacific Electric Railway Company as a comptometer operator, so as part of her retirement remembrances, she received an old comptometer machine. "They retired the comptometer with me," she remarked with a smile. She's pictured here at right with Joe Scatchard, Controller-Treasurer-Auditor.



DIVISION 15 OPERATORS got together on December 21 to salute Earl Lees (center) on his official retirement date. This former operator, who also worked much of the time out of Division 8, joined the District on February 29, 1956. To help Lees spend part of his retirement engaged in a favorite pastime, his co-workers chipped in to purchase a fishing gear box. As shown here, everybody at the party got a taste of the giant cake decorated with a bus design. On left is Nick Bayerle, recently-retired RTD operator, and on far right is Ernie Giaquinto, Division 15 Transportation Manager.



FOND FAREWELLS and a send-off party took place last December 23 among the employees of Division 1 Maintenance. The recipient was Angel Lujan, who retired on December 30 after 20 years with the company as a Mechanic "A." To thank him for all those years of service and friendship and to wish him good luck in the years ahead, Lujan was presented with a scroll by Jesus Martinez, Division 1 Maintenance Manager, and then the food was served. Also attending the farewell gathering were his wife, Esperanza Lujan; Earl Zwiebel, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance Divisions; Alzie Jones, Utility "B"; George Marsala, Division 1 Transportation Manager; and many others. From left: Zwiebel; Lujan and his wife; and Jones get ready to cut the cake.

Layover zone:

Line 83 run completed—without a bus

Last December 11, Division 6 Operator Henry Ross completed his familiar Line 83 run along Wilshire Boulevard from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica City in 2¼ hours — somewhat longer than his normal running time. But what was remarkable about his "run" that morning was that it was literally that — made on foot.

This 41-year-old bus driver jogged the entire way from RTD's Maple Avenue lot to the corner of Second and Colorado in Santa Monica — a distance of over 17 miles — without stopping. He even ran in place at red stoplights until the traffic signal changed.

Cheering him on that Sunday were his track coach, some neighbors and friends who provided "Gatorade breaks" at strategic points as he trotted by.

Ross wore shoes designed for running on hard surfaces and he sported a tee shirt ordered specially for the occasion reading: "RTD is going places."

"Some RTD operators honked or waved and a few people asked

me if it was some kind of publicity stunt," he reported.

It wasn't. A confirmed believer in keeping in shape, he explained his goal "was to spread an awareness among other operators and the District that physical fitness is very important."

Training for this feat wasn't accomplished overnight. While "I've been running all my life," this agile operator got into serious marathon, or long distance, running about two years ago.

Today he adheres to a steady exercise regimen. Each day after work he runs 10 miles along the ocean from his Venice home to Will Rogers State Beach and logs 15 miles daily during weekends. That's in addition to an hour of weightlifting every other day.

Sensible eating is another vital part of the program. He consumes vegetables raw or steamed, avoids high cholesterol foods like eggs, and passes up butter and margarine.

How does such a healthy

lifestyle benefit an RTD employee? "It conditions you to a degree where you feel better, stronger, healthier and have a more positive attitude as far as work," he said.

That can be a valuable asset when operating a bus line that can become as hectic and crowded as the 83. "There are a lot of senior citizens and you have to take a little more time and be more considerate," Ross noted.

His advice to would-be running enthusiasts is take it slow at first. "If you're overweight, consult a physician to determine exactly how far to run. Never try to overextend yourself," he suggested. "If you get tired, walk for awhile."

With his Line 83 marathon run realized, Operator Ross has set his sights on a lengthier goal further down the road. He's currently stepping up his exercise program in preparation for a run from the Ventura County line to downtown Los Angeles. But he hasn't mapped out the route for that one yet.



CROSSING THE FINISHING LINE at 2nd and Colorado in Santa Monica is Operator Henry Ross, who ran the entire line of RTD's Line 83 in just over two hours. The purpose of his marathon run was to emphasize to fellow employees the importance of staying in tiptop shape in order to do a better job and enjoy life more. His next goal is to run from Ventura County to downtown Los Angeles, but he may not follow a bus route for that feat.

Stops and Zones: Bringing RTD to a halt

The RTD bus comes to a halt at the familiar yellow bus stop sign, the passengers alight, and their immediate concern is the walking distance to their destination. What passes unrecognized is the "science" behind why they're disembarking at that particular point.

Establishing a bus stop involves far more than choosing an empty area, erecting a sign and painting the curb. The land slope, roadway and sidewalk conditions, local or state ownership of the property, railroad right-of-way, nearby residences and businesses, and even the closeness of power poles, storm drains and fire hydrants must be taken into account.

It's a complicated business, considering the many geographic and safety factors. In addition,

Establishing a bus stop involves far more than choosing an empty area, erecting a sign and painting the curb.

there's numerous city, county and state highway ordinances to comply with, explained Jim Upton, RTD Stops and Zones Supervisor.

The responsibility for all this groundwork falls within his department, where three Stops and Zones representatives do the field surveys in selecting the locations and preparing whatever reports are needed. They then issue the work orders to the 11 maintainers who actually install the posts and signs.

With some 30,000 bus stops throughout the District — marked by Airport Express, Minibus, Subscription Service, Park and Ride, and other RTD service information signs — it's a sizeable assignment.

Stops and Zones works closely with the RTD Planning and Schedules departments. When new routes are established, a Stops and Zones representative goes out to produce geometric

sketches which include street width, identification of property, traffic signals and crosswalks surrounding the proposed stops.

"We present this to the city, county or other jurisdiction to get their concurrence," Upton explained. Sometimes local officials may object, so the representative acts as a diplomat in settling any disputes amicably.

He recalled one instance in which the day after a bus stop was established and the maintainers painted the curb red, city officials had it repainted green. Following several subsequent repaintings by both parties, the situation was resolved.

After pinpointing the location, other mathematical formulas and standards enter the picture. For example, to accommodate a 40-foot bus, a "farside" bus stop (located beyond the intersection) is generally 80 feet long; one established "nearside" is 90 feet; and a stop located "mid-block" runs 120 feet in length. Clearances for the bus as well as for trucks, trailers and other vehicles are also evaluated.

Moreover, they have to determine whether to place the sign on its own or attach it to existing street sign or utility poles. "Some cities want as few posts as possible," Upton said. It's also more economical, he pointed out.

Keeping traffic signs and signals visible also dictates the bus stop sign's distance from the curb face and its height. Always uppermost in their goals is providing a convenient, safe spot for passengers to board and alight while allowing the operator to completely stop parallel to the curb.

With the inevitable changes in bus routes and service, existing signs have to be changed and removed often. And the more detailed Bus Information Signs — listing routes, line numbers and destinations — are more complicated to keep updated. Then there's the routine maintenance of checking for vandalism, newly-

developed traffic hazards and other changes in street conditions.

The largest source of requests for new stops is local residents. Likewise, the biggest originator

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of objections over proposed or present bus zones stem from nearby home and business owners. Fear of parking restrictions, noise and pollution are the most often-heard complaints. In those instances, Stops and Zones representatives do an in-depth appraisal of the issue.

They also keep abreast of any street construction, attend traffic and safety commission meetings, and obtain signed agreements for the use of restrooms at each

bus line terminal within their assigned territory.

Upton described his department's equipment "as the most modern available" for installing the bus stops. A post can be secured in concrete within 10 minutes. He's also looking forward to a new type of Stops and Zones truck made to RTD specifications.

But the biggest change forthcoming, he said, is the expansion of the currently 3,000 Bus Information Signs in the mid-cities area to each bus zone.

This project, part of a federal grant to renovate the District's existing stops, awaits final concept approval and bid process. But the changeover to these more informative signs, while entailing many installation, maintenance and storage adjustments for his department, will go a long way in encouraging ridership and furthering the District's image, he predicted.



Kiosk-type sign directs downtown Spring St. riders



Upton (left) reviews proposed bus stops with Stops and Zones Representatives Victor Muniz (center) and Franklin Lonning

Self-defense basics offered

Quick thinking and a few well-placed protective movements have helped save many persons when suddenly attacked by a stranger. With that in mind, a self-defense class will be offered to RTD employees on Monday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m.

During the one-hour session inside the Parker Center Auditorium at 150 North Los Angeles Street in downtown Los Angeles, members of the Los Angeles Police Department's Central Division Team 11 will demonstrate ways to throw an assailant off-balance for a few moments, thus helping the potential victim to escape.

Such methods include using

the fingernails to gouge the eyes, hitting the attacker on the nose with a clenched fist, kicking the groin area, and even tossing a heavier person over one's shoulders.

While directed primarily at women, men are also welcome to attend and RTD employees may bring interested friends. Loose clothing should be worn since audience members will participate in actual self-defense demonstrations.

The course was arranged by the District following requests for such instruction. For more information, contact Bill Weimer, Special Projects Manager, at Ext. 6675.



Div. 9's carolers put on an angelic show



An S.R.O. crowd at Div. 1 greets Santa

District abounds with Yuletide spirit

There was no shortage of Yuletide spirit throughout the District this past holiday season, as the photographs here will attest. RTD's Santa Claus paid official visits to each of the division's Christmas parties held during the week before December 25 to distribute stockings to the employee's children.

(A subsequent investigation of the District's Santa could not confirm his everyday identity; however, several sources did report spying Jolly Old St. Nick's red-and-white suit hanging near the desk of Allan Styffe, Operations Staff Analyst.)

Santa was accompanied by

George Heinle, Manager of Operations; George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation; Ted Brennen, Superintendent of Divisions; Bill Weaver, Director of Safety; and other employees. Santa's two helpers were Andi McFall in Operations and Diane Moran, Labor Relations.

The tour throughout the District was made in a festively-decorated minibus, with Instructor Donald Cooper serving as the official "Rudolph the Reindeer" doing the navigating.

A heartwarming turnout of

Maintenance and Transportation workers and their families was seen at each of the parties, where the large crowd enjoyed refreshments and food served buffet-style, a drawing for the gifts gathered as part of the District's annual Toys For Tots drive, and the exchange of goodwill and friendship between rank-and-file employees and management.

In addition, many of the division managers arranged holiday entertainment among the employees and family members to highlight the festivities, including baton twirlers; guitarists, singers and bands; dancing; and even Scottish bagpipe players.

The District's own newly-formed musical group also debuted this past holiday season at the downtown headquarters' holiday celebration, playing Yuletide carols for District personnel and their children.

Many of the divisions and other RTD locations were decorated with Christmas trees, window paintings, crepe paper and balloons, thanks to the Transportation and Maintenance managers, stenographers, operators, mechanics, and countless other employees and their spouses who generously donated their time, effort and creative talents in the name of spreading holiday cheer and merriment.



Toys for Tots drawing at Div. 3-10



Div. 12 guest keeps Santa to himself



Careful contemplation given at Div. 12 before revealing Christmas wishes



Div. 2 Operator George Coatsworth III (left) and his band contribute cheer



Lots of party activity at Div. 18 celebration



Scottish bagpipe players entertain Div. 3-10 crowd



Hollywood Ticket Office was regally decorated



Good food, fellowship shared at Div. 4-5 luncheon



Big turnout for South Park Shops' Christmas feast



Holiday hug for Div. 6 Steno Pat Keck



Div. 9 teamwork spirit artistically expressed by Utility "B" Violet Herber



RTD's new music group debuts at headquarters' party



Div. 15 Operator Dale Sholley heeds Christmas call of duty



Helen Woods, wife of Div. 8 Operator J. D. Woods, accompanies holiday singing



Div. 6 Maintenance and Transportation employees stop in to enjoy their buffet



Div. 7 children anxiously await turn on Ole St. Nick's lap



Headquarters' staff children regard Mr. Claus with awe



A stopover at Div. 9 Maintenance to say "Merry Christmas"



Santa's sleigh, RTD-style



Plenty of food, decorations, even pet animals highlight Div. festivities



Management, rank-and-file employees and families exchange holiday greetings at Div. 8



Dinner line progresses quickly at Div. 18



Oops, Santa almost loses it



Div. 7 Manager Gus Lopez dances to music of his daughter, Maria's, band



General Manager Jack Gilstrap wishes happy holidays to employees downtown



"Mrs. Claus," Betty Sconce, entertains children

Recreation news:

Basketball players team up

RTD's Basketball League sign-ups have begun and all signs point to 1978 being another highly exciting season. From February through May, a series of games among the 10-team league will be whittling down the best. Successive playoffs between both the top and bottom teams will enable everyone to strive for a trophy, with a consolation trophy going to the lower bracket winner.

Individual plaques will also be given for first and second place, as well as a Warren Meats award for the team manager exhibiting the most leadership throughout the season.

Then the excitement of the 145-game basketball season will reach a crescendo when the champion RTD basketball team enters an All-Stars rematch with KLAC. Many District employees will recall the hard-fought challenge that RTD's All-Stars waged against Johnny Brown's KLAC basketball team last April. In addition, a match is planned to pit RTD's team against the Los Angeles Police Department's top players.

Information about participating in these games and details on the dates and locations can be obtained from Bill Hernandez, RTD Sports Commissioner, at Ext. 6357.

Skiing enthusiasts and would-be skiers have reason to rejoice — recent rains have made this a banner season for winter snow sports and a great time for RTD to offer a ski trip to Lake Tahoe next month.

PSA Airlines, carrying District employees, families and friends to the snow-blanketed Sierras, will leave Los Angeles International Airport on Friday, March 10 at 6:15 p.m., arriving in Tahoe 1½ hours later. The return flight is scheduled to depart there at 8 p.m. on Sunday, March 2. Thus there will be two full days to enjoy the winter snow sports, mountain scenery, fresh air and Tahoe's famous entertainment and places of interest.

For two nights, RTD's skiing group will enjoy luxurious accommodations at the Timber Cove Lodge with cocktail lounges, restaurants, fireplaces and entertainment offered. Also included in the weekend package is two days' lift tickets, two cocktails at Harrah's, two cocktails at the Sahara Tahoe, room tax, and hot wine each day. Total price is just \$127 per person (based on group rate) so reservations should be made immediately with the Recreation Department.

On a warmer note, a weekend trip to Death Valley will depart via

bus from Division 9 on Friday, March 31 and return on Sunday, April 2. The \$58 per person price covers two nights' stay at the Furnace Creek Ranch, an all-day sightseeing trip with a professional tour guide pointing out Death Valley's scenic and unusual features, and admission to Scotty's Castle, a tour highlight.

The Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California is opening its doors to District personnel and their families during the weekend of March 4 and 5. Open house hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Streetcar, interurban and caboose rides will run throughout the day, besides museum tours and a "railroadiana swap meet." Helping set the nostalgic mood will be RTD's own employee musical group. More details on the reduced admission prices will be forthcoming on the Recreation Department bulletin boards.

Those who attended the Christmas party at downtown headquarters know that the District's employee musical group is in full swing, but more musicians are encouraged to participate. With a talented director leading the program, the musicians plan to give concerts, appear at picnics and awards presentations, and back up Little Theatre productions.

The potential for this group's uses can increase only with the support given it, so it's up to all employees to help make it successful. If you're musically inclined, drop by at 7:30 p.m. during one of the regular Wednesday night practice sessions at the downtown headquarters building at 425 S. Main St. Or if this time is inconvenient, other arrangements can be made.

Information on this and other recreation programs is available by calling Betty at Ext. 6580.

Classified

- Scuba weights, 2 lbs., 3 lbs., 4 lbs., 5 lbs., and special 8 lbs. contoured. 50 cents a pound. Call Terry or Mary at 213-248-2186.

- Reels of tape, mostly 7", some 5" and 3" of good quality for sound recording. Some reels used, some not. Offers invited. Call Jeff Carpenter at 473-0775.

Help wanted

Volunteer scorekeepers are needed for RTD's Basketball League. A class outlining the duties of this very essential function will be offered prior to the opening games. Employees and family members willing to participate are urged to call Betty at Ext. 6580 immediately.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH was a lucky day for Earl Zwiebel (far right), Assistant Superintendent of the Maintenance Divisions, because it marked the start of his retirement. Maintenance employees and other District personnel convened in the headquarters building to present him with a retirement scroll, gifts, cake and refreshments. Beginning with Pacific Electric as an auto machinist in October, 1945, Zwiebel worked his way up through the ranks during his subsequent 32 years of service. He and his wife, Frances (center), now plan to travel in their new trailer. At left watching him open a gift is George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment.

Operator gets warm send-off

Operator Fuller D. Glover began his Line 871 run on Friday morning, December 16 in an especially merry mood. Not only was Christmas fast approaching, but his two-week vacation was about to begin.

When he made his first stop, he found his regular passengers had prepared a big surprise. They boarded the bus with Christmas decorations, refreshments and presents in hand.

It was a combination Christmas-vacation party for the operator. As he drove from Redondo Beach to the Union Station destination, the riders proceeded to decorate the inside of the bus with tinsel, bulbs, and stockings while singing Christmas carols. Other RTD operators and pedestrians who glimpsed the goings-on were surprised.

"I was amazed but I shouldn't have been," said Glover. The group of 33 or 34 regular passengers had always been a very friendly, close-knit group, the Division 4-5 operator explained, and they had dropped hints about the surprise party earlier.

"He's always so conscientious in making sure we get to work on time," remarked Margie Green, one of his most devoted fans and a steady RTD customer. This was their way of saying thanks and Merry Christmas, she said.

Because Glover was going to the East to visit his family during his vacation, she presented the driver with ear muffs and read aloud the following poem she wrote for him:

*"So you're forsaking us for
a trip back East,
To the land of ice and snow,
Well, here's something to keep
your ears warm,
When temperatures dip to
twenty below!*

*Also to shut out the voice
of your conscience,
And cries of the passengers
you left behind,
As they struggle with new
drivers every day,
That can't seem to get us
to work on time!*

*In spite of that, have a
happy vacation, Glover,
Give your dear Mom a big
kiss for us,
And we'll forgive you all
of your sins,
If you just hurry back and
drive our bus!*

*Have a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year,
May all of your dreams come
true,
Ours did when you didn't
get bumped,
We couldn't face this ride
without you!"*



Operator Glover has won many friends among his riders

MAKING HEADWAY



Barbara and Gregory Searcy became the jubilant parents of a baby boy on November 13, 1977. Gregory Jr. weighed in at 7 lbs. and 5³/₄ oz. Gregory Sr. is an Accounts Clerk in the Accounts Payable Department.

A third generation Melvin Jones arrived last November 29 when Melvin M. Jones III was born to Division 5 Operator Melvin Jones Jr. and his wife, Patricia. The couple also have a daughter, Donyale, aged 8.

Operator Larry Cook of Division 2 and his wife, Patricia, proudly announced the birth of their third child, Kristen Lee, on December 9 at Kaiser Hospital in Bellflower. Kristen's sisters are Jennifer, 5¹/₂, and Becky, aged 3¹/₂.

"Santa" presented Division 2 Operator Vincent H. Benoit Jr. and his wife, Ina, with an early Christmas present. Vincent H. Benoit III, weighing 7 lbs. and 9 oz., was born on December 20, joining his sisters Dawn, 8 years old, Traci, 6 years, and Heather, 5 years. The couple had another celebration recently — their 9th wedding anniversary on January 25.

Vernon Roberto is the name of the new son of Division 15 Operator Joseph C. Seraile and his wife, Felicia. The baby, weighing 7 lbs. and 5 oz., was born on November 2. The couple also have a daughter, Ilesha.



Gilbert M. Romero, Jr., son of Division 9 Operator Gilbert D. Romero, recently graduated from the Marine Corps Boot Camp as a Private First Class. He's now stationed in Camp Pendleton for a year, after which he may be sent overseas. According to his

dad, Gilbert plans to become a pilot or Highway Patrol Officer.

Leslie E. Smith, Division 1 Operator, and his wife are the proud grandparents of their eighth grandchild. The new baby, Carlos Alberto, weighed just under 6¹/₂ lbs. at birth and is the son of Carlos and Cindi Saenz.

The family of Information Operator John Martin has a remarkable milestone of which to boast. John's father, Peter Martin of Evanston, Illinois, just celebrated his 106th birthday. And he's still going strong and enjoying life, despite surviving wars and famine and the death of his wife and three of his 10 children. Peter Martin has never needed eyeglasses, his hearing is good and he has excellent recall of names and faces. He recalls courting his wife in a horse and buggy, while today he rides in automobiles and has even flown in the "big bird" once. President and Mrs. Carter sent a congratulatory message to John's father upon his last birthday.

Bernadette Howard, Secretary II in the Special

Agents Department, and her husband, Robert, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on January 24 with a party at their home. Later this year they plan a "25th year honeymoon" trip to Ireland. Howard has been a District employee for two years.

Belated congratulations go to William B. Southard who retired from active service on July 15, 1977 after 31 years with RTD and its predecessor agencies. Southard was employed November 16, 1946 as a patrolman and was subsequently promoted to Special Agent on August 31, 1958 — a position he held until his retirement. A commemorative gathering for him took place in the downtown headquarters building on his last working day, when he was presented with a Retired Special Agents badge by the department.

Headway regrets that due to a transition period last year when it lacked a fulltime editor, the names of long-time, dedicated District employees such as Southard who retired during that time may not have been mentioned in the company publication.



DIVISION 8 Maintenance and Transportation departments were the latest recipients of the RTD road call plaques awarded to the division which records the largest percentage reduction in road calls during a one-month period. As shown above, George Heinle (center), Manager of Operations, presents the plaques to Tom Tegtmeier (left), Division 8 Maintenance Manager, and Jerry Woods (right), Transportation Manager. As a reward to the employees whose work realized this goal, a drawing of Division 8 employees' names was held. Clyde G. Willoughby, Mechanic "A"; Wray Deitrich, Mechanic "A"; R. E. Bair, Operator; and James A. Dickey, Operator, each received a pair of Rams' game tickets.

Coloring contest

(Continued from page 1)

Cavette, Mechanic "B" at Division 8.

Second place: Wendy Saldana, 11 years, daughter of Jesus B. Saldana, Division 8 Operator.

Third place: Kenneth Powell, 9 years old, son of Division 6 Operator Donald Powell.

12 TO 14 YRS.

First place: Lisa A. Banks, 13-year-old daughter of Janiece M. Banks who works in Data Processing.

Second place: Dinamaria Carneal, age 13, daughter of Division 3 Operator Robert L. Carneal.

Third place: Vincent Holloway, 13-year-old son of Clifton Holloway, Division 3 Operator.

Pass it on!

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

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

HEADWAY

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Editorial input and suggestions welcome. Deadline for receipt of editorial copy is the 14th of each month. Send black-and-white photos only, please. Requests for photographic coverage of District events must be preceded by 72 hours' notice.

Mailing address: Headway, 6th Floor, 425 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013. Telephone: 213-972-6680.

Madeleine Bickert, Editor

Southern California Rapid Transit District
 425 So. Main St., 6th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013

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