



# HEAD



# WAY

Southern California Rapid Transit District

Volume 5, Number 1, January 1978

## RTD pioneers in acquiring 'bus of future'

The first steps toward a group purchase of 530 "buses of the future," called Transbuses, were taken at RTD on November 17. Federal government officials, District management and members of other U.S. public transit properties met at the downtown headquarters building to review the procurement plans.

Transbuses are designed to aid the elderly, handicapped and others in boarding and exiting public transit vehicles. Their innovative components include lower floors, shorter step-risers, a front end level-changing or "kneeling" feature, and a wheelchair ramp.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jack Gilstrap, RTD General Manager, said these modern new buses would not only benefit the public but features such as the wider doors will help operators as well.

Parties to the group purchase, besides RTD, are the Metropolitan Dade County Transit Authority of Miami, Florida and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority of Philadelphia. Out of the total 530 being purchased by the consortium, 230 will go to the District. However, delivery isn't expected

for several years because of the high performance standards and testing required for new design concepts.

The U.S. government began encouraging production of a totally accessible public transit vehicle several years ago. That mandate was recently underlined by Brock Adams, U.S. Transportation Department Secretary, who announced that public buses with Transbus features will be required for all bus purchase orders placed after September, 1979.

"Better accessibility, new styling features and a better ride will attract and retain new ridership, add to the operating revenue of transit operators and enhance the image of mass transportation in every community," Adams predicted.

RTD, a pioneer in the acquisition of more accessible buses, approved a historic resolution in 1974 requiring that future buses purchased by the District be equipped to accommodate the elderly and handicapped. During 1978, the District expects delivery of 200 buses with wheelchair lifts, although floor heights will be standard, as well as 30 high-capacity or articulated buses with improved accommodations.



Reviewing the transbus procurement plans are (from left) Ray Booth, Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon; Ralph Lanni, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); Peter Young, SEPTA; Ernie Gerlach, Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency; Gilstrap; George Heinle, RTD Manager of Operations; Wilbur Hare, Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA); Jim McCullagh, UMTA; and Stanley Hindman, UMTA.

## Airport Express takes off

Operators out of Division 1 began making two new runs as of December 15, 1977 when RTD's newly-approved Airport Express Service began serving the Hollywood/Burbank Airport to and from downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood.

The two new lines have been established on a six-month experimental basis, following requests from Pacific Southwest Airlines and Hughes Airwest that express bus transportation for this increasingly busy airport be established. Both airline companies have indicated they will promote the District's new service through in-flight announcements and distribution of bus schedules.

Line 790, providing hourly service from dawn to late evening between downtown Los Angeles and the Hollywood/Burbank Airport, stops at the RTD-Greyhound bus station, at several major downtown hotels and four locations in downtown Burbank.

Line 791, operating hourly between the airport and Hollywood, serves several major hotels in the Hollywood area and the Hollywood Greyhound Station.

Five buses equipped with luggage compartments, like those for the Los Angeles International Airport Express Service, are being used on these two new lines.

## Dec. Blood Bank a big success

Approximately 120 employees signed up to donate one pint of blood at the temporary American Red Cross station inside RTD's headquarters building on December 9.

This blood bank drive brought in 84 pints of blood, surpassing the total from the previous drive in April, 1977.

All employee blood contribu-

tions go towards the RTD group blood bank, allowing participating District personnel and their immediate families a limited allotment of blood free should the need arise.

Employees can also donate blood in the District's name at any local American Red Cross location as an ongoing contribution to the District blood bank.



Employees give blood for the District



New Airport Express Service stops at the Biltmore Hotel



RAMS GAME TICKETS and autographed footballs were the prizes awarded several Division 12 employees, following the monthly drawing of employees' names whose division had achieved the biggest percentage reduction in road calls. Pictured above (from left): Ted Brennen, Superintendent of Divisions; George Wells, General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; Mechanic A Leadman Donald Martin who won a pair of tickets; Floyd Hughes, Division 12 Maintenance Manager; Rufus Johnson, Utility A, who received a football autographed by the Rams; Operator William Hagen, recipient of a football; Operator Ronald Coleman who was awarded a set of tickets; Operator Michael Ball, awarded an autographed football; Larry Johnson, Assistant Transportation Manager; and Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation. (Not shown are Utility A Robert Cannon who received an autographed football; Operators Howard Maher, Major McKay and Gary Hemmerling, who all received football tickets; and Utility A Steve Tinsley and Mechanic B Raul F. Diaz, both given Rams game tickets.

### Recreation news:

## Fun-filled agenda for 1978

To help RTD personnel and retirees form their vacation and other leisure-time plans for 1978, the following is a tentative list of the exciting tournaments, trips and other events planned by the Recreation Department for this new year. Dates have been included wherever possible; however, last minute changes or cancellations may be necessary.

In addition, new activities may be added during the coming months, so keep an eye on the Recreation Department bulletin boards at your work location for further details on dates, places and prices.

### JANUARY

- Laserium Show, Griffith Park, Sunday, January 22
- Basketball leagues form
- Pool tournament

### MARCH

- Ski trip to Mammoth via air, leaving Friday, March 10
- Weekend at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley via bus, departing Friday, March 31

### APRIL

- Weekend stay in Las Vegas, Fremont Hotel, via bus, departing Friday, April 21
- Golf tournament, Green River, Corona, Sunday, April 30
- KLAC/RTD Basketball All-Star Game

### MAY

- Amtrak trip to Sea World in San Diego, Saturday, May 6
- Nine-day Mexico tour, departing Saturday, May 20
- RTD Day at Renaissance Faire in Agoura

### JUNE

- RTD Day at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Saturday,

June 17 and Sunday, June 18

### JULY

- Weekend in Las Vegas, Fremont Hotel, leaving Friday, July 14
- RTD Day at Dodgers' Stadium
- RTD Summer Olympics

### AUGUST

- Company picnic, Calamigos Ranch, Malibu, Sunday, August 27
- Soccer leagues form
- Bus Roadeo competition
- Two-day trip to Hearst Castle via bus

### SEPTEMBER

- California wine country tour, Saturday, September 2 to Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)
- 15-day Caribbean cruise and Miami Beach, departing Friday, September 15
- Disneyland tour, 4 p.m. to midnight, Sunday, September 17
- Weekend trip to Las Vegas via bus, departing Friday, September 29
- Golf tournament, Pomona National, Sunday, September 30

### OCTOBER

- RTD Day at Magic Mountain, Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15
- One-week vacation package for Hawaii

### NOVEMBER

- Pool tournament
- RTD Night at Rams' Game
- Vacation package for Tokyo and the Orient

### DECEMBER

- Weekend trip to Las Vegas, departing Friday, December 8
- Division Christmas parties
- New Year's Eve on Catalina Island, Sunday, December 31

## Safety shoes prove their worth

The value of wearing proper protective clothing while on the job was proven to Jose Luis C. Gonzalez, Utility A at Division 1, when he narrowly missed suffering serious injury to his feet.

The incident occurred last September 9, when a vault cart Gonzalez was pulling to the vault safe room rolled over his left foot. Because he had taken the precaution of wearing nylon, oil-resistant corded safety shoes, he escaped injury.

Without the shoes, "I think I'd be in the hospital, maybe without one or more of my toes," he said. "Because it (the cart) cut through

the leather against the metal cap."

"A vault cart weighs approximately 1500 pounds when fully loaded," he noted.

In recognition of his good habits, Gonzalez was accorded lifetime membership in the Golden Shoe Club, a shoe industry-sponsored organization dedicated to foot safety. A plaque from the organization was personally awarded the Utility A last month by Bill Weaver, RTD Director of Safety, who commended the employee for his continued safety awareness.



A delighted Gonzalez (center) accepts his plaque from Weaver (left) and J. C. Gonzalez (right), Equipment Maintenance Supervisor II

## Egypt's ancient secrets unearthed

Forum '78 will welcome the new year at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 25 in the headquarters' board room when Ralph de la Cruz, RTD Principal Analyst, untangles a web of intrigue that shook the ancient Egyptian Empire during King Ptolemy's era (205 B.C. to 182 B.C.)

De La Cruz will decode and translate Egyptian hieroglyphics found on the famous Rosetta Stone unearthed near the Nile River in the 18th Century.

Using colorful illustrations and

handouts, he'll explain Egypt's unspoken language of the high priests and will take the audience through King Ptolemy's political and romantic life.

Egypt's officials paid tribute to Ptolemy by dedicating hieroglyphic monuments in his honor.

All employees are invited to attend the presentation and learn of the affairs of King Ptolemy, Cleopatra and the ancient Egyptian empire, but are reminded that food and drink are not allowed in the board room.



THE FIRST AM GENERAL bus equipped with lifts for the elderly and handicapped arrived at the District on December 5, 1977. Bus number 8066 (shown above) was taken to Division 2 and then to the South Park Shops for farebox installation, safety inspection and adjustments as needed prior to placing the bus into District service. As part of its commitment to provide totally accessible public transportation, RTD has 200 of these new buses on order, but delivery and service dates for all of them are not yet finalized.

# Schedule changes

## Moving Up

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Date
Basulto, Fernando	3205	Op. Ex. Div. Disp. to Division Dispatcher	11-02-77
Beard, Wilbert	5050	Information Clerk to Info. Clk.-Ex. Supvr.	11-25-77
Caria, George G.	3099	Oper. Analyst to Tran. Sys. Coordinator	11-21-77
Carpenter, Calvin J.	3303	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	11-13-77
Coffey, David	5050	Information Clerk to Info. Clk.-Ex. Supvr.	11-26-77
Curtis, Martha J.	4200	Secretary II to Tran. Png. Anal. I	11-20-77
Marino, Amanda	3308	Information Clerk to Stock Shop Clerk	11-20-77
Ellison, Sandra J.	3305	Payroll Clerk to Stock Shop Clerk	11-08-77
Esquiroz, Maureen F.	3299	Typist Clerk to Division Steno (Vac. Rel)	11-13-77
Ferguson, Kenneth W.	7100	Payroll Clerk to Jr. Invoice Clerk	12-04-77
Fiss, Dennis A.	4200	Operator to Tran. Png. Analyst I	11-20-77
Grayson, Johnny E.	3307	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	11-13-77
Hillard, Robert L.	3303	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	11-13-77
Hillmer, Jon A.	4200	Schedule Analyst to Tran. Png. Analyst I	11-20-77
Holahan, Michael	5050	Information Clerk to Info. Clk.- Ex. Supvr.	11-24-77
Iloff, Pricilla D.	3312	Payroll Clerk to Stock Shop Clerk	11-11-77
Kubota, John	5050	Information Clerk to Info. Clk.- Ex. Supvr.	11-23-77
Lerman, Suzanne B.	3306	Stock Shop Clerk to Storekeeper	11-06-77
McFall, Helen A.	3099	Schedule Analyst to Operations Analyst	11-21-77
Moss, Alice F.	7100	Cash Clerk to Cash/Rev. Clerk	11-13-77
Palacios, Pasqual C.	7300	Asst. Mgr. of Stores to Manager of Stores	11-27-77
Porter, William C.	3500	Temp. Schedule Analyst to Schedule Analyst	11-21-77
Potter, Patricia	7100	Information Clerk to Temp. Cash Clerk	11-13-77
Triguero, George M.	3303	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	11-13-77
Triguero, Philip A.	3307	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	11-13-77
Ruiz, Jose L.	3303	Utility "A" to Mechanic "C"	11-13-77
Schroder, Frank	4200	Tran. Png. Anal. I to Asst. Sur. Planner	11-21-77
Scott, Robert L.	3301	Utility "A" to Utility "A" Lead.	11-06-77
Shibata, Kenneth W.	3302	Storekeeper to Stock Shop Clerk	11-06-77
Sorci, Judith K.	7100	Payroll Clerk to Spvsng. Control Clerk	11-27-77
Suma, Ambrosia M.	7100	Typist Clerk to Schedule Typist	11-16-77
Sun, Paul S.C.	4200	Tran. Plan. Anal. II to Asst. Surf. Planner	11-21-77
Van Matre, Patricia	4200	Tran. Plan. Ana. II to Asst. Surf. Planner	11-21-77
Wallace, Kenneth	4416	Information Clerk to Temp. Ticket Clerk	11-19-77
Whitledge, Janis F.	4200	Schedule Analyst to Tran. Png. Analyst I	11-20-77

## Shifting Gears

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Caven, Jack R.	6201	Former Customer Information Assistant Transferred to Ind. Leave 6-18-77	8-11-62	11-11-77
Elliott, John D.	3209	Operator	9-14-42	12-1-77
Lloyd, Arthur B.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Leave 4-13-76	5-14-66	11-22-77
Pantera, John F.	3306	Mechanic "A"	4-22-41	11-5-77
Vogel, Bernard G.	3209	Operator	1-22-46	11-23-77

## In Memorium

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Anderson, James D.	7300	Former Storekeeper Retired 06-24-77	11-21-77
Goericke, Leonard	3201	Former Operator Retired 06-01-70	11-28-77
Lira, Edward J.	3209	Operator	11-13-77
Mason, William R.	3218	Operator	11-29-77
Merrill, Harvey D.	3314	Former Electrician Retired 04-30-63	11-13-77
Muchmore, James M.	3297	Instructor of V.O.	11-25-77
Shappell, Ross R.	3209	Former Operator Retired 06-01-70	12-01-77
Sindeff, M. F.	3206	Former Operator Retired 11-09-57	10-28-77
Strong, Robert F.	3204	Former Operator Retired 11-30-70	11-28-77



**BOARDING, RIDING AND WAITING** for approaching and departing buses were part of the training for 13 puppies from the San Rafael Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Center. The drill, part of the "socialization" process during which the young animals are exposed to moving vehicles, city noises and other obedience exercises, was done at Division 15 by the San Fernando Valley 4-H Club. Legally blind people receive the trained guide dogs free of charge. The RTD is the first California bus property to participate in the program by providing a bus for each class.

## Credit Union contributes to New Year's excitement

Each year beginning in early September, anticipation of the various exciting New Year's Day bowl games begins to build. Football enthusiasts stay glued to their TV sets, following their favorite teams, checking the college football rankings and making predictions on the outcome.

This year the Transit District Employees Federal Credit Union got involved in this yearly phenomenon. They, along with Western Airlines and the Credit Union National Association, sponsored "Rose Bowl Sweepstakes '78" during December, offering RTD employees who belong to the credit union a chance to pick the winners and name their choice for Player of

the Year.

The prizes were tickets to the Rose Bowl Parade and Game, a free trip to several cities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, and a Sony television set.

There were two ways to enter, either by sending in a coupon or by calling in on December 28 when "Rose Bowl Sweepstakes '78" aired over KCOP-TV. Between 8 and 9 p.m., 20 former Tournament of Roses Queens and Princesses took the calls. Host of the program was Johnny Gilbert from the "Dinah" show.

Besides the prizes awarded the lucky viewers, the player picked as "Player of the Year" had a big-screen television system donated to his college in his name.

## RTD employment becomes fashionable

District employees can now flaunt their source of employment in the latest leisure fashion by donning a new RTD tee shirt.

The tee shirts are available in four sizes — small, medium, large and extra large — at just \$2 each.

The RTD logo is silk screened on the front in brown on a white background and set off by gold piping on the sleeves and neckline. Made of a comfortable cotton/polyester blend, the tee shirts are ideal for picnicking, beachwear, backyard lounging and other casual occasions.

Be the first on your block to order one or more. Forward the coupon below and cash or a check payable to "Southern California Rapid Transit District" to the RTD Recreation Department, Location 32.



**Bill Hernandez, RTD Field Representative, models new tee shirt**

Employee name:	_____
Work location:	_____ Badge number: _____
Home address:	_____
_____	Home telephone: _____
Quantity wanted:	_____ Size(s): _____



Warm welcome at 8800 Santa Monica Boulevard

# Big turnout for Division

Division 7's open house on Sunday, November 20 was a great success, with some 2,000 District employees, their families, retirees, management, local dignitaries and the public turning out to view the innovative building and participate in the ceremonies.

functions of the various RTD departments. Employees and guests also enjoyed rides on the double deck buses.

During the afternoon, guided tours were led through RTD's newest, most modern bus transportation and maintenance complex, located at 8800 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood.

To keep the small fry amused, entertaining feature films were shown. The Transportation Department sponsored a bus coloring contest for the children, with a 10-speed bike as the prize. The winner was Cori Sawyer, 8-year-old son of Division 18 Operator William Sawyer.

In addition, sandwiches, ice cream, popcorn and other refreshments were in ample supply.

The tours covered the color-coordinated offices; recreation and reading areas; community relations room; expansive maintenance area with fully equipped kitchen, repair and maintenance garages and shop areas; classrooms; and bus fueling, cleaning and washing locations.

The official opening was further highlighted by a formal unveiling and presentation of a bronze plaque, with Gus Lopez, Division 7 Transportation Manager, and Rollin Johnston, Maintenance Manager, present to receive it.

Numerous photographic displays, scale models, equipment and vehicle exhibits, instructive films and literature explained the

Jack Gilstrap, General Manager; Marvin Holen, President, Board of Directors; and George Heinle, Manager of Operations, addressed the crowd on the significant achievement



Walking tour outside the maintenance garages



Large crowd inspects operators' quarters



Starting point at division dispatchers' office



Charts and diagrams explained District services



Equipment exhibits highlighted maintenance area

# on 7's jubilant debut

that Division 7's opening represents in progressive public transportation. Tribute was also given to the many individuals involved in the project whose hard work and long hours had helped realize the division's construction and opening.

Besides the eye-catching interior furnishings and contemporary concrete and bronze architecture, Division 7 incorporates some of the latest technical innovations to insure bus operational efficiency, energy conservation and pollution control. For example, the bus washing station is designed to recycle water while the fueling station can fuel and vacuum four coaches simultaneously.

In other ways, Division 7 is a departure from the traditional bus transit support facility. This multi-story structure houses both the maintenance and transportation areas under a single roof. The upper levels of the building are designated for employee parking for approximately 240 cars.

To facilitate repairs, the latest tire, brake, and other maintenance equipment have been installed, with an eye to the future. Two of the four sub-surface pits are built to accommodate the new articulated coaches being purchased by the District.

"The District's new Division 7 is a forerunner of a changing industrial environment. Updated equipment, pleasant surroundings and room for expansion work together to improve operational efficiency and employee morale," Gilstrap remarked. "Thanks to funds made available to the District by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, renovation and construction of facilities such as Division 7 will continue."

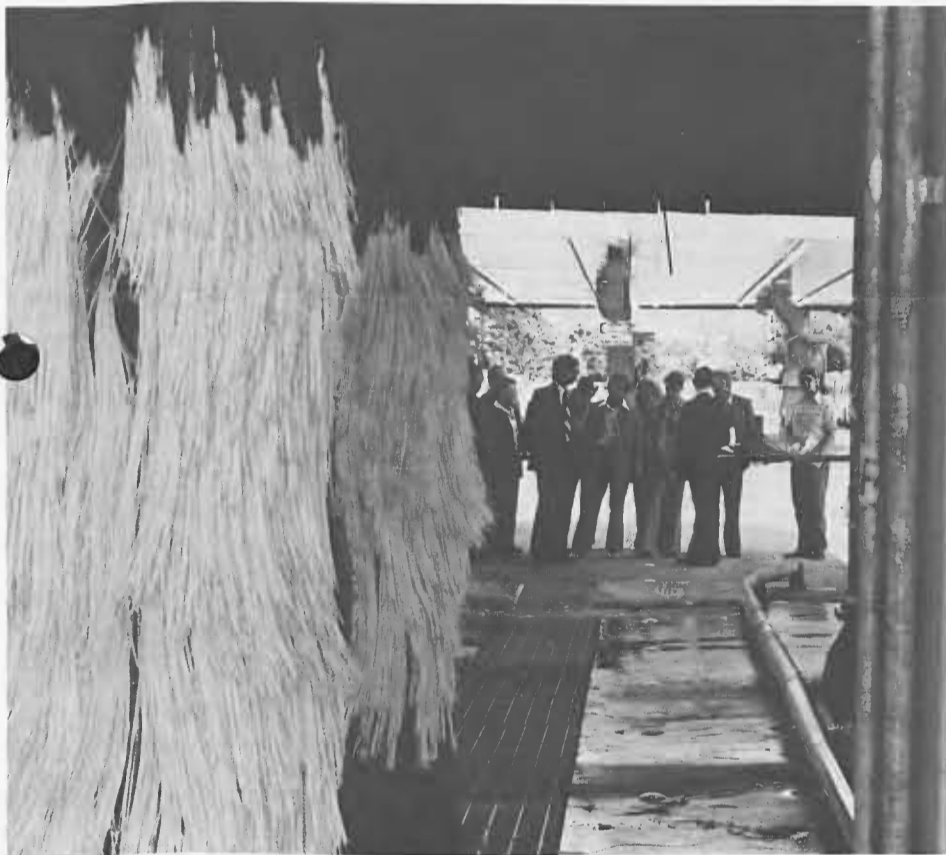
Spanning slightly over nine acres and accommodating 250 coaches, the total complex was developed at a cost of roughly \$5.4 million. Division 7's designer was the Ralph M. Parson Company of Pasadena.



Dedicating the new division are (from left): Bob Wick, Superintendent of Maintenance Divisions; Ted Brennen, Superintendent of Divisions; Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation; Lopez; Johnston; Heinle; Holen; and Gilstrap



Dedicated coloring contest entrants hard at work



Close-up view of bus washing facilities



Walsh and Jeff Diehl (right), Superintendent of Transportation Services, display prize bus drawing



Refreshments aplenty



Victor Muniz reviews Stops and Zones



Cori Sawyer and his father enjoy the new prize

# District mail service strictly 'first class'

Each weekday morning at 5 a.m., before many employees are even awake, RTD's first mail run is being made at the different divisions and other locations. Like the famous U.S. Postal Service motto in which almost nothing prevents "these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," the pick-ups and deliveries continue throughout the day, ending at 9:30 p.m.

Inbetween those hours, several thousand pieces of inter-company and U.S. mail involving RTD personnel pass through the Mail Room in the downtown headquarters building.

Within this single room, the Mail Room personnel under Harold Kelley, Building Services Supervisor, receive, sort and ready the assorted memos, letters, reports and packages for distribution to the correct addressee.

Considering the large volume handled, it's a small staff. Five regular and one relief mail carrier travel to the widely-scattered District locations, while two regular and one relief messenger clerk remain in the downtown building.

Their territory is large. Besides 39 locations in the headquarters building and stops at both the Transportation and Maintenance departments at each division several times daily, Kelley's staff covers the RTD Ticket Offices, South Park Shops, Cash Counting, Customer Service Center in the Arco Plaza, and the offices of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Western Benefit Plan Administration and General Adjustment Bureau.

## **Sometimes the Mail Room workers have to dabble as detectives.**

Moreover, the mail carriers take the Board Books to each RTD Board of Directors member before their bi-monthly meetings.

Mail pick-up, delivery and sorting isn't all they handle. Outgoing correspondence via the U.S. Postal Service has to be weighed and metered.

Thursday is their busiest, when the Schedules Department sends out the bid sheets. Mondays and Fridays are also peak days. But overall, Customer Relations and



**Kelley (left) directs Messenger Clerks Doris Brown and James Wells inside the central Mail Room where the sorting takes place**

the Personnel departments are their biggest customers.

Sometimes the Mail Room workers have to dabble as detectives. Inevitably, each day some mail is misaddressed, illegible or otherwise hard to identify. It's their responsibility to investigate the contents and determine the intended destination or source.

Besides being handwriting and mystery-solving experts, the Mail Room staff has to know the secretaries, stenos, department heads and countless other employees by name so that the mail is delivered to the right location quickly. And they must keep abreast of numerous personnel changes.

## **"No mail to be delivered to a division stays in the Mail Room over three hours."**

Often the mail delays caused by RTD employees are due to carelessness. Kelley said frequently a sender using inter-company envelopes marks a work location without completely erasing the old address. The Mail Room staff then has to figure out which is the desired destination.

Another common error is the use of plain envelopes for company mail. With speed essential, the mail sorters may automatical-

ly stamp all standard envelopes and forward them to the post office, where the incomplete addresses destine them for the dead letter office. All inter-company correspondence must be in company envelopes, Kelley stressed.

Despite these isolated problems, the District's mail service is amazingly fast. "No mail to be delivered within the downtown building stays in the Mail Room over one hour," he explained. "And no mail to be delivered to a division stays in the Mail Room over three hours."

"We have very fast turnover," he added proudly.

Yet their equipment isn't greatly sophisticated. Hand trucks and carts transport the mail. Sorting is done by hand. The Mail Room does have an inserter and a labelling machine to eliminate hand-addressing. Soon the department will coordinate operations with Data Processing to automatically stuff all pre-addressed envelopes.

But the present mail system, since Kelley took charge of it two years ago, more than meets the District's needs.

"As the company grows, we expect to get more modern machines," he said. "But I honestly believe our Mail Room is second to none."



## **October's employee honors**

The three RTD employees commended for the month of October for their continued service to the District and to the riding public were Olivia Gutierrez, Information Operator; Arthur Winston, Maintenance Employee; and John Schonborn, Division 10 Operator.

Olivia Gutierrez was recognized for her contributions as a superior information operator because of the number of commendations received about her, complimenting her politeness, patience and dependability in the directions she provides. In addition, she has established a good attendance record during her four years' employment with the District.

Arthur Howard is well qualified in his position as Utility A Leadman at Division 5, having worked with buses since 1934. Over the years he has been very conscientious and cooperative with his fellow workers. Howard has also been noted for his willingness to lend an extra hand wherever his skills might be needed.

Division 10 Operator John Schonborn, a bus driver since 1946, has been a great attribute to the District in many ways. He currently holds a 30-year driving safety record, hasn't had a missout in over nine years and has achieved the maximum of 60 merits. Moreover, he has never had a lost time injury. Many passengers have expressed their appreciation for his pleasant attitude.

Awarding the certificates and \$50 on behalf of the entire Board of Directors to each of the three employees being honored that month was Director Charles Storing. Pictured here from left: Storing; Robert Williams, Manager of Customer Relations; Gutierrez; Arthur Howard, Division 5 Maintenance Manager; Winston; Jack Storey, Acting Transportation Manager at Division 3-10; and Schonborn.

## **Driver's generosity 'heartwarming'**

In the course of performing their job, operators may discover a lost purse, briefcase or wallet left on his or her bus. It's generally turned over to the division dispatcher who forwards it to the special agents for return to its owner. Sometimes the relieved RTD customer then sends a commendation letter and a reward to the bus driver involved.

But when all that happened to Operator Jordan Holland of Division 7, he went one step further.

It began one recent day when Fora K. Vawszer, a retired, foreign-born U.S. citizen living in Los Angeles, became very distressed when she realized she had left her purse on the bus. Inside were her naturalization papers, money, savings account book and other valuable documents. She contacted the RTD right away.

The next day she learned that

Operator Holland had turned in her purse with all the contents intact.

"I left a small reward, not affording more," she wrote. "But imagine how very nice this driver was! He not only thanked me for my mail, but he said he would share the amount I had left with the underprivileged Indian children and he enclosed a card of thanks from the Indian Protection Society."

"It warms one's heart to find such fine persons still existing in a rather callous world," she continued. "We are connected with people in other countries to whom I also mention this incident, as it is sure to make a good impression of Americans."

In acknowledging her letter, the District assured her that Operator Holland's good deed would be favorably noted in his personnel file.

## Key transit lawmakers meet at RTD

Future management and financing of mass transit in Los Angeles County was the subject of an important legislative public hearing held December 9.

Inside RTD's downtown headquarters' board room, District board members and management met with the California Assembly Committee on Transportation, chaired by Assemblyman Walter M. Ingalls (Riverside), Vice Chairman Chester Wray (Orange County), and Members Frank Lanterman (Pasadena) and Mike Antonovich (Glendale).

Also attending the public hearing were key representatives of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, the Municipal Transit Operators of Los Angeles County, the Southern California Association of Governments, CALTRANS, and the Automobile Club of Southern California, as well as the news media.

Legislators, government leaders and transit agency officials discussed ways to develop new sources of local revenues to fund future transportation projects, including the proposed Downtown People Mover, Starter Rail Line via Wilshire Boulevard, new bus and maintenance facilities, and better use of ex-



Sue Ridenour demonstrates the wheel chair lift for (from left) Gilstrap; Assemblymen Wray and Ingalls; and Holen

isting streets and freeways. Also reviewed during the day-long meeting were several mass transit concerns and issues facing local agencies and properties.

Marvin Holen, President of the RTD Board of Directors, and Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, reported to the committee on District operations, including

current fares, productivity, tax resources, labor, bus maintenance and equipment, and future financing proposals.

The lawmakers and other visitors also had the opportunity to view the newly-arrived AM General bus purchased by RTD with lifts for the handicapped and elderly.

## Classified

- Great Dane. AKC, fawn, four months old. Shots and cropped. \$200.00. Call 213-291-6614 at 6 p.m.

- '74 Capri. Four-speed, low mileage, excellent condition. AM-FM radio, cassette player, air conditioning, loaded. \$3,100 or best offer. Call 213-256-6909 evenings.

- Two-bedroom house plus income from one bedroom apartment, move-in condition, greenhouse, two-car garage, new wall-to-wall carpeting. North of Melrose, west of Crescent Heights. \$99,500. Call 213-651-3988.

### URGENTLY NEEDED!

**Trumpets, saxophones and clarinets — both instruments and players — are needed to participate in RTD's new employee music program. If you have access to these musical instruments, please call Bill Weimer at Ext. 6675.**

### Layover zone:

## Operator Dallas stays 'tuned in' to new friends

Many persons collect baseball cards, coins and stamps. Operator Terrence Dallas of Division 15 saves something much more unconventional. He boasts a collection of 20,000 QSL cards — colorful postcards exchanged between citizen band radio operators across the nation and world.

In official radio communications terms, QSL means "Can you acknowledge receipt? I am acknowledging receipt." QSL cards are used by CBers to con-



COMMUNICATING WITH fellow citizen band radio enthusiasts via his CB base station at home or by swapping CB club affiliation cards through the mail occupies much of Division 15 Operator Terrence Dallas' "layover" hours. Known by his CB handle, "Impala," he and his XYL (radio terminology meaning wife), Mary, have collected some 20,000 postcards from members of CB clubs throughout the U.S. and world.

firm earlier radio contact or simply as a friendly greeting to fellow CB enthusiasts they've heard about. They give a "brief description of you, your address, what type of equipment you use and what clubs you belong to," Dallas explained.

The purpose of joining numerous CB clubs is to "attain more cards for yourself, being recognized as a person to swap cards with." Like stamp and coin buffs, the act of collecting is itself pleasurable to him.

Dallas not only belongs to 477 CB clubs currently, but he's president of one — the Hollywood Modulators. Its membership of 850 persons in areas as distant as Sweden also includes former First Lady Betty Ford, known in CB circles by her famous handle, "First Mama."

The bus operator's own handle is "Impala," named after his car. His wife Mary goes by "Gazelle." The couple maintain a base station at home with some \$3,000 invested in antenna, mike and other equipment, as well as mobile units in both automobiles.

Dallas' enthusiasm even extends to his car license plates reading "73 AN 88" — the customary radio sign-off. 73 means "Good luck and God bless you" and 88 signifies "Love and kisses" to an appropriate person.

Inside his "CB room" at home, Dallas carefully files and cross references his QSL card collection, noting the date he made contact with another CBer, where

the party was located and if cards had been exchanged.

His data compiling has paid off, particularly in building friendships. When Dallas plans a trip, he consults his card file, notes CBers living in the area and lets them know when he'll be passing their way. Often an invitation from them follows to stop by so "we can lay the old eyeball on you."

There are other advantages to owning a CB radio. When travelling through unfamiliar territory, Dallas has received road directions, information on overnight trailer accommodations, and descriptions of impending road conditions via his mobile unit.

Dallas, who acquired his call letters KOX-6339 in 1966, first became fascinated with radios when he acquired a set of walkie-talkies at age 15.

While the CB phenomenon has caught the public's fancy, it's especially popular among bus drivers. Estimating that one in

five RTD operators had had some CB interest or experience, Dallas theorized that many become acquainted with radio communications after driving buses equipped with two-way radios.

There are two modes to CB radios, Dallas explained, AM and side band. AM uses the CB handles, while side band communications are on a first name basis. But a more important difference is that in side band "you can talk three times as far using three times less power. It's more costly but it's a better way to go."

The next step up would be amateur radio operation, but that entails more work and study of the Morse code. "I'm working too hard now. I have the desire but not the time," the RTD employee said. Nevertheless, Dallas predicts his radio communications interest will endure throughout his life.

"I'm going to retire with CBs and with RTD," the 34-year-old bus operator stated.

### Don't be modest!

Are you into reading tea leaves? Lithuanian cooking? Investigating UFO sightings? Calligraphy? 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# MAKING HEADWAY

The 25th wedding anniversary of Division 3 Operator William A. Teem and his wife was celebrated at the Old Fashioned Southern Baptist Church in El Monte on November 20. The couple don't have any children, so the Silver Tea, attended by 74 persons, was given by the four children Mrs. Teem has babysat for many years. Operator Teem, a former Pasadena City bus driver, has been with RTD nearly 20 years.

Operator Humberto Pere of Division 10 and his wife Ana have a new son. Humberto Alex Pere Jr. was born last

September 6 at Kaiser Hospital in Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Ann Phillips was born on October 15, 1977, making Yvonne and Hugh L. Coleman, Division 11 operator, very proud grandparents.

Rodolfo G. Torres II, 20-month-old son of Lucille G. Torres of the Personnel Department and grandson of Jesse G. Gusman, Utility A at Division 2, placed third in his age group at Barnes Park in Monterey Park for his Halloween costume. His Jolly Green Giant outfit, designed by his grandmother, won him a ribbon and a trophy.



WITH THE JANUARY DUE DATE rapidly approaching, Arthur Leahy (right), RTD Senior Management Analyst, and his wife Annetta enjoyed a baby shower at the downtown headquarters on December 7. Besides cake, refreshments and good wishes from friends throughout the building, Art's co-workers in the Administration Department arranged dinner and a night on the town at the Bonaventure for the couple. Art hopes his first child is a boy so they can name him Arthur Jr. Shown here joining them in the celebration is the soon-to-be-uncle, Mike Leahy, Operations Analyst.



A SURPRISE CELEBRATION honoring 30 years of service by Rose Showers, Office Manager in the RTD Personnel Department, was indeed a great surprise for her. As pictured here, Rose (on left) is delighted to find her "Irish green" cake was really orange inside. She's being assisted by Nina Capoccia (right), Pension and Insurance Clerk. Friends, fellow employees and department heads dropped by to congratulate her. Showers was hired as a temporary typist clerk on December 1, 1947 and has remained in the Personnel Department since that date.



MARRIAGE VOWS were exchanged on November 19, 1977 when Information Operator Elizabeth "Liz" Miller became the wife of Blake West. Liz, who has been with the District for four years, comes from a family of RTD employees. Her father, Richard Miller, is an operator at Division 9 while her mother, Edith, and her sister, Peggy Wahl, are both District information operators. Both family and friends at RTD gathered for her shower in the downtown building employee cafeteria a few days before the wedding. From left: Elvira Hernandez, Information Operator; David Aranda, Customer Information Representative in Marketing and Communications; Karen Lea, Information Operator; Wilbert Beard, Information Operator; Liz; Brenda Miley, Extra Supervisor-Information Operator; her sister, Peggy; and her mother, Edith, holding a grandson.

## HEADWAY

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