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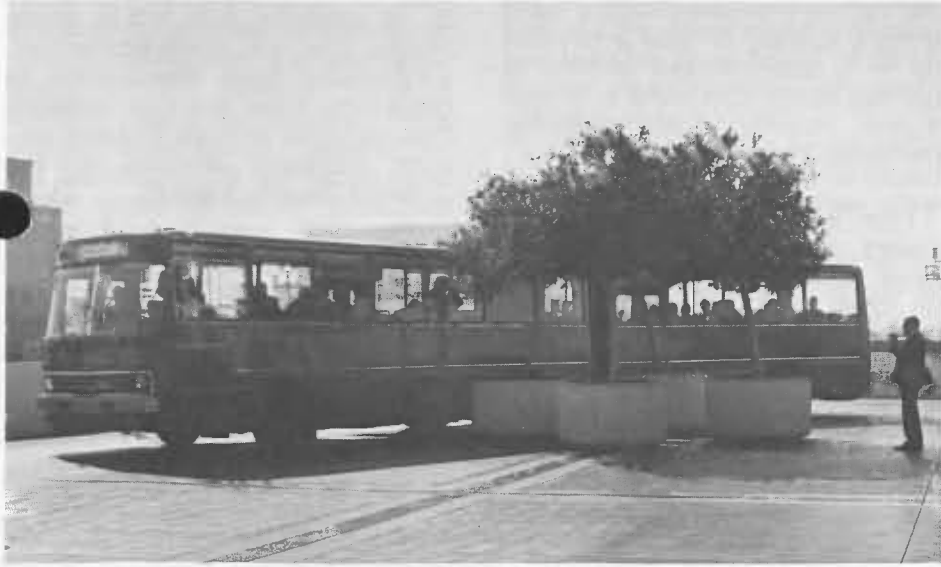


WAY

Volume 5, Number 3

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RTD moves ahead with articulated bus



Demonstration model rounding the bend at L.A. Convention Center

Dispatchers weather flood of rainy day dilemmas

This winter's stormy weather has proven to be a windfall for the state's farmers, purveyors of umbrellas and ski resort operators. But as bus operators well know, rainy weather also brings slick streets and added driving headaches.

All this was brought into sharp focus inside RTD's Dispatch Center on Monday, January 16. On that day, greater Los Angeles recorded almost two inches of rain within a 12-hour period and traffic tie-ups seemed to reach a crescendo as the radio dispatchers commendably handled a record of nearly 2,000 calls.

"In the 23 years I've been working here, that's more calls than I've ever seen on a single day," said Jeff Diehl, Superintendent of Transportation Services.

Approximately 772 of them were "action" calls — those requiring some type of immediate response or reaction by the dispatchers. The majority of the problems involved windshield

wiper malfunctions or traffic jams. "It was a solid blob of congestion out there," he commented.

In contrast, on a normal weekday with dry weather, the Dispatch Center averages between 1200 and 1500 calls, of which 450 to 600 are categorized as "action" ones.

The most hectic period arrived between 3 and 7 p.m. Distress messages came in from throughout the District. "The rain wasn't centralized and neither were the problems associated with the inclement weather," he recalled.

Diehl's staff of eight dispatchers did a remarkable job in handling the heavy workload, even foregoing their meal periods in some cases. But despite their best efforts, it was inevitable that some operators couldn't get through to a dispatcher immediately.

"We ask operators, during these critical circumstances, to

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While the District's two double-deck buses currently in operation continue to attract the attention and admiration of passersby, the RTD is moving ahead with another advance in modern bus transportation that's equally destined to keep turning heads.

During March, the RTD is scheduled to begin operating on a 30-day test basis an Ikarus 286 — an articulated bus that bends in the middle. It is to be used on Line 83, the heavily-travelled route along the Wilshire Boulevard corridor from Santa Monica to downtown Los Angeles.

Manufactured in Hungary, the bus measures 20 feet longer than RTD's standard 40-foot coach. It contains 10 to 15 more seats and can carry 107 passengers seated and standing. The trailing section has a steered axle that gives it a turning radius of 39 feet which is less than that of a conventional bus.

The vehicle was unveiled during a press conference at the Los

Angeles Convention Center on February 1. Representatives of the Hungarian concern, local government dignitaries, RTD management and Board of Directors members, officials from other transit properties, and the news media attended.

Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, was among the distinguished panel that morning discussing the mass transit improvements that articulated buses could bring to Los Angeles and RTD's role in that goal.

By carrying more passengers, an articulated bus increases fuel economy and driver productivity while relieving traffic congestion through fewer vehicles on the street.

The District's test run of the Ikarus 286 will provide important operational information as the District prepares to acquire 30 similar buses from West Germany late this summer. Articulated buses have been a familiar sight on European streets for many years.



Sam Black (left), Acting Manager of Operations, inspects articulated bus with Gilstrap (right)

Close-up of King Tut arranged

One of the most talked-about cultural events to happen in Los Angeles is the arrival of the famed King Tut exhibit at the Los Angeles County Art Museum during February. The RTD has arranged a special showing of these rare Egyptian treasures for its employees on Thursday, May 25. The group tour will begin at the museum at 5905 Wilshire Boulevard at 8:30 p.m. and last approximately two hours.

The dazzling treasures from the four-chambered tomb of Tutankhamun, the "boy king," have been described as the most magnificent archeological find of the 20th century. Among the ob-

jects to be viewed during this special showing, including some that have never been out of Egypt before, are a solid gold funerary mask, exquisite statues, gilded wood furniture, carved alabaster figures and superb specimens of royal jewelry.

Because the total number of persons who can be accommodated is limited and the demand will be great, tickets for this private group showing, selling for \$5 each, are limited to two per employee.

In order that all District employees be given an equal opportunity to obtain King Tut

(Please turn to page 7)



Record rainfall brings extra driving hassles, hazards



SYMBOLIC OF THE TEAM SPIRIT required in curbing road calls, footballs personally autographed by the Rams were awarded three Division 7 employees. The West Hollywood Maintenance and Transportation facility was the latest divisional winner in achieving the biggest percentage reduction in road calls during one month's time. The three employees' names drawn at random to receive the prizes were Operator Richard Flynt, Operator Chung H. Cho and Maintenance Foreman Il R. C. Gonzalez. Shown here at the presentation of the rotating road call plaques are (from left): Tom Tegtmeier, Acting General Superintendent of Maintenance and Equipment; Rollin Johnston, Division 7 Maintenance Manager; Gus Lopez, Transportation Manager at Division 7; and Jack Walsh, General Superintendent of Transportation.

C.B. benefit break slated

The Southern California Save Our Bears (SOBs), an organization of citizen band radio operators and California Highway Patrol officers, was formed to help make driving safer by aiding distressed motorists and relaying traffic information. They're also engaged in a fight against leukemia.

On Sunday, April 16, they'll be sponsoring a C.B. Benefit Break along with the Parents Against Leukemia of the San Gabriel Valley to help raise money for this cause.

It'll take place at the La Puente Handball Courts at 15858 Amar Road in Industry from noon to 6:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome, according to Division 9 Operator Ray Hart, founder of the SOBs. There will be entertainment, refreshments and tickets sold for the prize drawings, with all proceeds going towards the leukemia society, he said.

For more information, Hart can be reached at home at 213-358-0989.

Stormy weather

(Continued from page 1)

call in only those things that are vital. They should use common sense and good judgment," he urged.

While it's impossible to precisely predict and plan on Mother Nature, RTD's Dispatch Center did a superior job in coping with the Southland's extra transportation needs during New Year's weekend.

Travel to the 1978 Rose Bowl Parade and Game in Pasadena via District buses was up by a whopping 105.78 per cent over 1977's total, he reported. And patronage departing the New Year's festivities in Pasadena rose by 101.27 per cent over last year.

"Considering we were working with 20 per cent less supervisory personnel," Diehl concluded, "it was the best doggone day we've ever had."

Recreation news:

Full speed ahead in March

Spring is just around the corner and so are a series of enjoyable excursions and exciting sports events arranged by the Recreation Department.

On Sunday, March 19, RTD's Malibu Grand Prix will take off at top speed around the Fountain Valley race track located at 9065 West Warner Avenue. This Grand Prix allows District employees and family members with a valid driver's license to race a formula car — a scaled-down version of the real thing, complete with rear engine, spoiler, quick steering, and sleek fiberglass body.

The \$15 per person cost covers two practice laps and three competition laps. Part of the cost goes toward the prize money to be divided among the top four drivers that day. So the more persons participating, the greater the possible winnings. Racing helmets, challenging curves and thrilling ride await.

For District personnel whose work schedules have prevented their taking advantage of the popular weekend trips to Las Vegas, the Recreation Department has put together a special two-day, midweek vacation package.

There are two choices in dates: Tuesday, May 23 (and returning Thursday, May 25) or Tuesday, June 6 (returning Thursday, June 8). In addition, this trip is being made via air transportation. Employees have the option of departing from the Los Angeles International Airport, Ontario Airport, Burbank Airport, or the Orange County Airport.

The \$95 per person price (based on double occupancy) includes air fare, two nights' accommodations at the Fremont Hotel, one lunch and dinner, a keno ticket, transfer to and from the hotel, baggage handling, taxes and gratuities.

The deadline for full payment is April 15 for the May 23 trip and May 1 for those interested in the June 6 excursion.

The District's All-Star Basketball Team will meet the KLAC All-Stars on Saturday, April 29 for an exciting game at the Van Nuys High School in the San Fernando Valley. Once again Johnny Brown's top celebrity squad will pit their swiftest moves and scorers against RTD's best divisional players. Everyone is invited to attend at no cost but because seating is limited, tickets must be secured in advance.

Also occurring next month is the RTD Golf Tournament on Sunday, April 30. This year's outing will take place on the orange course at Green River in Corona. Like last year, Championship, First, Second and Third Flights are being established. The \$10 entrance cost covers greens fees and prize money. Golf carts are also available. Sign-ups are taking place on a first-come, first-served basis.

RTD's tee-shirts emblazoned with the familiar company logo have been going like hotcakes with well over 400 already sold. These cotton/polyester shirts come in extra large, large, medium and small sizes and are a real bargain at just \$2 each. Employees who wish to obtain one or more should contact the Recreation Department immediately as the supply is running out.

Don't forget to mark your calendar now for the excursion via Amtrak to San Diego's famed Sea World on Saturday, May 6. And RTD's nine-day vacation to romantic Mexico leaves Saturday, May 20.

The Recreation Department will be happy to answer any questions on these programs through Ext. 6580.



Career success saluted

The District marked another milestone during the monthly Board of Directors meeting last January. For the first time, a woman was honored as Maintenance Employee of the Month — further testimony to RTD's ongoing commitment to equal career opportunities and advancement for persons whose work and attitude merit them.

The Maintenance Employee of the Month was Denice Mecca from Division 3. As Equipment Records Specialist, she has been instrumental in making the bus blocking procedure there successful. Also noted were her cooperative, friendly attitude towards Transportation Department personnel and her willingness to assume more responsibility in her work.

Bus Operator of the Month, Art Fleming, worked at Divisions 2 and 12 and in the Engineering Department before going to Division 9. Throughout that time he has been highly praised for his dedication in getting the job done. In 1977 alone he received 10 letters of commendation from the riding public, his manager reported.

All the qualities of a superior information employee were exhibited by Charles Munt, Information Operator of the Month. Besides an above average attendance record, many callers have noted his accuracy, patience, courtesy and speed in assisting them since he joined RTD in February, 1976.

Presenting the awards that day was Director Byron E. Cook. Pictured above (from left) are: Cook; Mecca; R. A. Clenard, Division 3 Maintenance Manager; Fleming; Jack Greasby, Division 9 Transportation Manager; Munt; and Robert Williams, Manager of Customer Relations.

Upholstery Shop has RTD all sewn up

Viewing the maintenance activities at RTD's South Park Shops is to see a picture of artisans in action, using their welding, carpentry, painting and other skills to keep the District's buses in top running order and appearance.

Perhaps one of the fastest-paced and fascinating refurbishing processes occurs among the cutting tables and work benches inside the Upholstery Shop, where two glaziers replace any broken windows and nine upholsterers recover the damaged seats on RTD vehicles. Besides the everyday wear-and-tear on a well-travelled coach, graffiti, flying objects such as rocks, and other types of abuse can take their toll.

The glaziers adeptly handle each pane of glass requiring installment. After marking a pattern on the surface, a glass cutter is used to etch out one side. Alcohol is then poured over the top and ignited. The heat from the flame softens the lamination plastic between the two layers of glass.

Tapping gently along the edges, the glazier breaks off the glass in the proper shape and size. The pane is turned over and the same process repeated. Finally, all edges are smoothed on a belt grinder.

"We cut 50 pieces of glass per employee on an average day, depending on glass size," said Norman Radi, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor whose responsibilities include overseeing upholstering and glass cutting. RTD's glass needs range in size from as large as 72" x 48" to fit the rear window on some coaches to as tiny as 1-7/16" x 2-13/16" for other bus parts. Much of the glass used today is tinted, but there have been few other changes.

Damaged seat cushions arrive at the Upholstery Shop either individually or with the entire bus. After surveying the extent of the work needed, the seat cover is removed and the cushion set aside.

The upholsterer goes over to the cutting table, selects the ap-



A seat bottom is stitched by Louis Carreon, Upholstery Leadman

propriate wooden pattern needed, and lays it on top of a large roll of vinyl. Tracing around the pattern, the design is cut with electric shears. To save time and effort, several thicknesses of vinyl are cut out at one time.

The pieces are stitched together at one of six very early model Singer sewing machines. The vinyl is then stretched over the bare seat cushion and the edges tacked underneath with an air staple gun.

Each upholsterer performs every step necessary in recovering a seat cushion so there isn't any monotonous assembly line-like work involved.

Some cushions can be recovered in as quickly as one hour, but the bigger seats, such as those in the bus rear, take longer. An average of 35 seat backs and cushions are sewn per day, according to Radi.

There was a time when bus seats came in light greens, blues and oranges and in different fabrics. About four years ago, RTD began repainting those seats with dark vinyl acrylic paint. Today the majority of bus seats are black or chocolate brown in

color and made of strong Naugahyde vinyl to discourage vandalism.

Recent years have brought other adaptations. The rubber padding has replaced spring seats. Another change in the upholstery is a more complicated design in the newer model buses. "They're more like a bucket seat," Radi explained, so they require more pieces to be sewn together. But they're also more comfortable for passengers.

In addition to their regular, steady workload, this South Park department handles a variety of miscellaneous assignments, including re-upholstering the District's office chairs and taking care of the sunvisors, operators' curtains and arm-rests on a bus. They may cut the window glass used at the divisions, terminals and other District buildings. And they repair RTD mail sacks and lost and found article bags.

But once in a while they get a more unusual work order. "Remember Santa Claus' throne at the company Christmas party?" Radi asked. "Well, we did that, too," he said proudly.



James Walker, Mechanic "A," uses staple gun to tack down a seat back

Classified

- 1976 Honda 554. Like new, 3300 mi. Many extras. \$1150 or best offer. Call 213-288-7316 after 8 p.m. on weekdays, anytime on Saturdays and Sundays.

- '55 Chevy pick-up. Stock with six-cylinder engine, standard transmission. \$1200. Call 213-435-2149 or 714-897-8585.

- King-sized bedspread. Excellent condition. Red, black, white flower design. Rayon. \$10. Call Billie after 6 p.m. at 213-789-7717.

- Dining room table and four chairs. Excellent condition. Virtue brand (brown veneer). Black wrought iron frame. Hi-back chairs with seats of red and black vinyl. Table 42 x 42 with two 11" leaves (extends to 64 x 42). \$75. Call Billie after 6 p.m. at 213-789-7717.

- 24-foot motor home for rent. \$250 per week plus mileage. Call 213-786-6970 anytime.

- 1973 Lincoln Continental. Full power, four-door sedan. Front end overhaul, new shocks. \$2,500. Listed below wholesale. Call 805-522-1492.



Glazier Mike Stoddard fires up a window pane

Ten thousand and ninety



35 YEARS: Manager of Employee Relations John Wilkens (center) congratulates (L-R) Jim McCullough, Frank Lilley, Daniel Madrigal, L.A. Downing.



30 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Ruth L. Athay, Murphy Swindell, William Taylor, Elmer Markles, Richard Kelso. (Middle row) Peter Yocas, Clifford Jones, E. R. Cobb Jr., Elton Ford, Pink C. Rabb. (Back row) R. H. Coleman, Mark Thompson, Harry Forrest, J. W. Greasby.



25 YEARS: (L-R) H. W. Atkinson, Michael Nakayama, Javier Gonzalez.



10 YEARS: (First row, L-R) David Dukes, Alfred E. Fant, Fred Tunstall, Jack Billingslea, Guy Mussack. (Middle row) James Gardner, G. D. Charles, Charles Proctor. (Back row) Bert Tetley, Dennis Mullen, Willie Allmon Jr., Roy L. Starks, Joshua Torres.

A grand total of 10,090 years of service to the District and its predecessor agencies was saluted last month. That figure is the accumulation of years worked by the 531 RTD employees who had completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of mass transit service to the public as of the end of 1977.

In recognition of their longevity, each received a gold pin, the District's heartfelt thanks, and an invitation to attend the Annual Employee Service Awards presentation on February 7 and 8 in the headquarters board room. Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, and John Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations, addressed the group, congratulating them on their achievement.



30 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Porter C. Swayze, J. R. Anderson, Donnell Reed, J. C. Sumlin, Gertrude Vest, Victor E. Muniz. (Back row) Marcus Drumright, Vernon Stephens, Albert York, Gus Lopez, Agnes Gibson, Walter E. Lohman.



20 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Robert Smith, B. D. Whittington, Harold Kelley, Richard Jones. (Back row) J. M. Frausto, Benjamin F. Looney, Joseph Moore, Vincent Santomero.



15 YEARS: (L-R) Louis Pine, Bruno Falcon Jr., Raymond Krill.



10 YEARS: (First row, L-R) James Moore, Enrique Quezada, Albert J. McKnight, Thomas Bell. (Back row) Melvin Carnival, Ardell Moore, Charles Bearden.

years of service saluted

Afterwards, refreshments were served in the cafeteria.

A breakdown of the service awards this year showed two individuals received pins for forty years of service. Another 29 employees marked the completion of thirty-five years' seniority; 97 employees recorded thirty-year careers with the District; 40

persons were saluted for twenty-five years; 108 employees received twenty-year pins; 75 individuals contributed fifteen years; and 180 were commended for a decade of service.

The 1978 ceremonies marked the third consecutive year that RTD has so honored its long-term employees.



30 YEARS: (L-R) M. H. Baldrige, Sidney Parker, Stanley Swanson, Jim Stinson.



20 YEARS: (First row, L-R) V. M. Poppleton, Ruth Rogers, Wallace McDonald, Wolfgang Weichert, Jonah Leibowitz, Odd Kristoffersen. (Middle row) James Gatewood, Roy Coleman, J. T. Conroy, Billie Burney, Thomas Barham. (Back row) Hiromu Hironaka, Joe A. R. Palma, Leon Lymuel Jr., Richard Lopez.



20 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Frank Mattocks, W. T. Williams, Chi Whan Chang, Trevor Walter, Renato Medina, Toshio Okamoto. (Middle row) Emmett Jiminez, C. T. Hearn, Robert Meredith, Carlton Johnson. (Back row) L. L. Johnson, Charley Triplett, Edward Holmes, John W.



Gilstrap conveys the District's appreciation to employees during annual ceremony.



35 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Roland Krafft, U. Guillebeau, Felix Bradley, Clifton Lawson, Richard Venable, Wayne Jack Gerhardt. (Back row) Gurson Levitt, Frank Hight, Sidney Scott.



25 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Eugene Barnett Jr., Boyd Emrick, Wilhelmina Orth, Sara Bustle, Wanda Amburgey, George Marsala. (Back row) Homer Turner, Alexander Ward, Julius Adams, Jesus R. Martinez, A. K. Lopez Jr.



15 YEARS: (First row, L-R) John W. Brewer, Dorothy Brooks, Verana Dzierlatka, Rosalie McDuffie, Veda Bowman, William Huskey. (Back row) Herbert Daniels, Thomas Walker, Chester Rauch, William Kendall, Sylvia Jackson.



10 YEARS: (First row, L-R) Charlie Hinton, Richard N. Walling, Shirley McKenzie, Rita Zwirlein-Cole, Raquel Reyes, Sue Wilber. (Second row) Garland Davis, Maureen Esquiroz, Vicki Varga, Linda J. Bouffard, K. N. Caffey. (Back row) Jack Morgan, Tommy L. Haynes, Ralph Wilson, Mack Evans, Oliver Small Jr.

Layover zone:

Mechanic Leadman's hobby on the right track

The typical suburban homeowner's garage houses the family car, assorted garden tools and unused furniture. But the inside of Mechanic Leadman Roland E. Mellon's garage hasn't seen any of that in years.

On random evenings and weekends, the whistle, chugging and clatter of up to five sets of tiny train wheels can be heard from inside his wood-paneled, temperature-controlled garage. Some of the locomotives even emit smoke as they circle the railroad lines, switch tracks and trainyard.

Mellon is a devoted collector of scale model trains. He's even adding miniature mountains, bridges and buildings to complete his "train layout."

He estimated he now owns 300 locomotives from which to build complete train sets with hopper cars, tank cars, passenger cars and cabooses in authentic colors and designs bearing famous names like the Santa Fe, Southern Pacific and New York Central.

The length of the train sets vary, with some of his passenger trains running 6 to 7 feet long.

Like many other hobbies, collecting scale model trains can be expensive. The highest price he paid for a complete set was \$550 and for a single engine, \$400. Lesser quality pieces can be acquired at lower prices but they're not as authentic or sturdy, the Division 4-5 employee explained.

Hobby shops, second hand stores, garage sales and swap meets are common outlets, but most of his buying is done among fellow model train buffs during regular club meetings. Mellon also attends national conventions where they have model train races and pulling contests. And he's always eager to introduce other persons to his hobby.

His wife is "understanding" of his collection except "she wasn't very happy when she bought a new car and had to park it outside the garage," he admitted. The rain ruined her auto's vinyl roof. However, "my four

grandchildren are all interested. They like to watch the trains go around."



MINIATURE VERSIONS of real-life locomotives, cabooses and passenger and freight cars fill the "layover hours" of Mechanic Leadman Mellon. His fascination with trains goes back to his youth, but the actual collecting of scale models didn't begin until 1970. Today he possesses approximately 300 locomotives and countless other pieces from which to build complete model train sets and layouts.

His own passion for trains traces back to his youth in the Midwest. But his collecting started in 1970 when he spotted an inexpensive train set at a swap meet and decided to buy it for his two-year-old grandson. "He was too young for it so I kept it," he laughed. The next week Mellon

returned to the swap meet and bought another. He was hooked.

Over the years he's been the engineer of just one model train disaster. He thought two trains traveling on merging tracks would bypass one another, but his calculations were off. Fortunately, the colliding engines were inexpensive.

The model train collector likes to ride the real-life version whenever he has the chance, but as for the future of trains, "I'm afraid it's rather bleak for passenger service." He attributes much of the decline to poor track upkeep.

In a sense, his pastime is a way of preserving an American transportation heritage. And model trains are a good investment, "better than money in the bank for collecting interest," he reported. About five years ago he paid \$265 for an engine that's worth \$500 today.

He plans to continue collecting but "eventually I'll have to sell some. I've run out of room." Besides remodeling his garage, he has two sheds of train set "odds and ends."

His love of rail transportation goes beyond collecting scale models. He owns some 150 hard-cover books on trains. Train decals cover his truck. And his bookends, salt and pepper shakers, wall paintings and even tie clasps carry a train motif.

But perhaps most expressive of all is his custom-made watch with the minute hand replaced by a train circling the watch face, keeping track of the hours as regularly as the click of train wheels speeding down the rails.

Toastmasters install officers

Judy O'Donnell, Secretary II in Personnel, was installed as the new president of the RTD Toastmasters during their January 18 meeting at the Alexandria Hotel.

She is being assisted by Paula Salido, Secretary III in Administration and outgoing Toastmasters President, who was selected to serve as the club's Educational Vice President.

John Tincher, Assistant Division Manager, is the Administrative Vice President; Max Zollman, Civil Engineer in Bus Facilities, is the organization's Treasurer; Shirley Crowder, Division 15 Operator, is the new Secretary; and Kris Kristoffersen, Relief Senior Special Agent, is the club's Sergeant-At-Arms.

In addition, the Outstanding Toastmaster of the Year Award was given President O'Donnell for having had the best attendance, number of awards earned at bi-weekly meetings, and the most success in recruiting other members. Also presented certificates for their recruiting efforts were Salido, Tincher and Zollman.

The meeting was further

highlighted by John Wilkens, RTD Manager of Employee Relations, who announced that \$100 was being contributed to the Toastmasters Club for trophies, club banner and educational materials.

Pete Kittridge, District 52 Toastmaster Governor, delivered an inspirational message to the group. Acting as installing officers that evening were Administrative Lieutenant Governor Maurice La Rose and Administrative Assistant Mary La Rose. Also addressing the meeting was RTD Board Member Byron Cook, a long-time Toastmaster.

Toastmaster's goal is to improve one's communication and leadership abilities by practicing speeches and receiving constructive feedback. Members also take turns coordinating meetings and practicing parliamentary procedures.

Club membership is open to all employees and their spouses. Meetings occur every first and third Wednesday in the headquarters building at 6:30 p.m. Interested persons are invited to drop in.



O'Donnell (left) takes over Toastmasters' presidency from Salido

Operator pledged to good deeds

District personnel who tuned in to the Arthritis Foundation Telethon on Channel 5 last January 28-29 may have glimpsed a fellow employee on their television screens.

Division 18 Operator George Nahra spent almost his entire weekend at the studios there, "helping coordinate the stars to go in and sit for an interview with the host," he explained. The telethon raised over \$550,000 for the foundation, he reported.

This wasn't the first time Nahra participated in the local fundraising event. Each year he helps such charities as the Easter Seal, Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy and Danny Thomas' St. Jude projects, among others.

"I'm very active in charitable work in Los Angeles, but the Arthritis Foundation is my big baby because many operators suffer from bursitis or an arthritic condition," he said. Heart problems and arthritis can be among the most crippling afflictions in his opinion.

"I've always tried to be a do-gooder," the 19-year District veteran continued, "and if I can't give money, I'll give my time and effort to different charities."

Besides his commitment to these annual events, his benevolent acts continue year-

round — assisting church groups, helping send underprivileged children to camp, donating clothing and other supplies to needy persons in foreign countries, and honoring fellow RTD employees' requests for support of local schools and other organizations. "I'm not a person who refuses," he remarked.

In fact, his involvement with philanthropic endeavors have placed him on a first-name basis with television and movie producers and stars who spearhead these projects. Nahra casually related his personal conversations over the years with big name stars like Rosalind Russell, Jerry Lewis, Betty White, Alan Ladd and Peter Falk. "They do it for the same reason I do it . . . out of the goodness of their hearts."

The operator said he first became interested in "helping my fellow man" 10 or 12 years ago through his affiliation with the United Transportation Union as a representative, but he's become increasingly active in charity work during the past few years.

"I'm 44 years old but I don't feel it," the RTD employee said. "I will continue to do what I can as long as the good Lord lets me. I think more people should become involved."

Off-Roaders map future course

Key club decision-making took place at the RTD Off-Roaders' meeting on January 14 in the headquarters building.

First, it was agreed to purchase club shirts and jackets. Secondly, annual dues were set at \$10 to be used for a yearly no-charge outing and dinner and a charity event. (There is no charge to attend regular meetings.)

Club representatives were elected as follows: Charles Thomas, Division 3215; Dan Dine, Division 3212; Bart Escales, Division 3218; and Glen Hall, Division 3302. Steve Sarak of Division 3209 was elected treasurer, with Jerry Champagne, Division 3201, serving as president, and Lonnie Anders, Division 3202, club vice president.

Two special guest speakers, Mike Tobey from the California

Off Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) and John Marnell from the Southern California Off Road Enthusiasts (SCORE), discussed off-roading safety and other interesting facts.

During the meeting, some very nice door prizes donated by various off roading suppliers were given away. Some of these merchants also offer a discount to the the RTD Off-Roaders.

Club members are looking forward to several upcoming events, including the CORVA Convention on March 4 at the Airporter Inn in Orange County and an April 15-16 outing at Texas Canyon near Saugus with a big steak barbecue.

For more information on club events, call Champagne at 771-3859 or Anders at 294-3920.



RTD Secretary Richard Kissick signs bonds in sets of ten

RTD milestone marked

March 1, 1978 brought a financial benchmark for the RTD, officially marking the date for the redemption and sale of \$15,215,000 in District revenue bonds.

This amount is the remainder of the original \$40 million in revenue bonds issued in 1958. It was during that year that the first public transit agency in Los Angeles — the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (RTD's predecessor) — was formed by merging several private carriers.

Because this agency had no funds from which to purchase buses, buildings, and other essential equipment and facilities, \$40 million in revenue bonds were sold to the public. Over the past 20 years, those bonds have been gradually redeemed. The maturation date for completely paying off these bonds is March 1, 1983 — five years away.

"In 1978, with a little over \$15.2 million still outstanding, we decided to call in the remaining revenue bonds and sell them on the market at a lower rate of interest," explained Joe Scatchard, RTD Controller-Treasurer-Auditor, because current interest rates were favorable.

The Board of Directors approved the refunding and sale of the remaining bonds to a group of brokers headed by Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith Inc., the lowest bidder.

This financial move means that between now and 1983 the District will save over \$800,000, not only through a lesser interest rate, but also by realizing substantial savings in consulting engineer fees and administrative costs.

In addition, Scatchard explained, the RTD will have better control over its short-term money investment because the new trust covenant contains less burdensome restrictions.



Scatchard (right) accepts check from John Nash of Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner and Smith Inc.

Schedule changes

Welcome aboard

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Hired
Alvarado III, Charles Henry	5050	Pax Information Clerk	1/9/78
Childers, Herman Lewis	3303	Mechanic "B"	1/9/78
Chiou, Wendy Hsieh	6200	Personnel Analyst	1/30/78
Eggleston, George Steven	7200	Mgr. Sys. Anal. & Prog.	1/3/78
Galvan, Frank	5050	Pax Information Clerk	1/9/78
Lau, John See-Tung	7200	Computer Programmer	1/3/78
Timberlake, Geraldine	5010	Sen. Pass. Serv. Rep.	1/30/78
Webb, Delores Marie	3303	Stock Shop Clerk	1/24/78

Moving up

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Date
Black, Samuel L.	3099	Chief Eng. Bus. Fac. to Act. Mgr. of Operations	1/27/78
Brayer, Jeanette	3299	Typist Clerk to Steno-Sick Relief	1/8/78
Gilland, Lloyd R.	3900	Operator to Security Guard I	1/1/78
Gonzalives, Albert R.	5050	Service Attendant to Information Clerk	1/8/78
Huffer, Raymond G.	3302	Storekeeper to Rif. Equip. Rec. Spec.	12/11/77
Kirshner, Frank J.	3399	Equip. Maint. Supv. II to Supt. Shops & Autos	1/29/78
Kreskim, William R.	3500	Operator to Schedule Analyst	1/29/78
Krumme, James L.	3110	Janitor to Mopper-Waxer	1/9/78
Labaya, Thomas	7300	Equip. Rec. Spec. to Buyer Salvage Agent	1/8/78
Lee, Pauline	3500	Secretary II to Schedule Analyst	1/29/78
Macias, Marie	5050	Temp. Janitor to Pax Information Clk.	1/9/78
Matsuda, Linda M.	3291	Division Steno to Clerk (Stops & Zones)	1/8/78
Ouye, Gary	3307	Temp. Ticket Clerk to Relief Stock Shop Clerk Storekeeper Equipment Records Specialist	1/15/78
Richardson, Shirley	7300	Key Punch Oper. to Senior Price Clerk	1/3/78
Shadle, Rodney E.	7300	Storekeeper to Timetables Strkpr.	12/11/77
Shibata, Kenneth W.	3302	Stock Shop Clerk to Equip. Rec. Spec.	1/22/78
Smith, Scott	3306	Storekeeper to Equip. Rec. Spec.	1/15/78
Sprague, Carol A.	9100	Assoc. Admin. Anal. to Sr. Management Anal.	1/16/78
Van Leuvan, Madeline	7100	Information Clerk to Cash Clerk	1/29/78
Ybarra, Fred	3500	Information Clerk to Schedule Analyst	1/29/78

Shifting gears

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Began	Retired
Glines, Marie	3212	Operator	2/16/51	1/19/78
Lee, Woodrow L.	3209	Operator	3/31/53	1/2/78
Livingston, David L.	6201	Former Operator Transferred to Ind. Lve. 10/7/77	7/23/57	1/23/78
Lujan, Angel A.	3301	Mechanic "A"	9/3/57	1/2/78
Mason, "J" R.	3318	Equip. Maint. Supv. II	9/14/45	1/2/78
Rauch, Wallace E.	3309	Utility "A"	11/19/71	12/26/77
Zwiebel, Earl G.	3399	Asst. Supt. of Maintenance Divisions	10/1/45	1/14/78

In memoriam

Name	Div./ Dept.	Classification	Deceased
Burke, Elmer R.	3208	Former Operator Retired 9/26/63	12/12/77
Graham, Pearl L.	3303	Former Utility "A" Retired 12/1/47	12/15/77
Holland, Carl D.	3203	Operator	1/7/78
Johnson, Wallace G.	3208	Former Operator Retired 4/1/68	12/8/77
McLeod, Norris	3302	Former Supervisor Retired 4/10/61	9/10/77
Petrie, Harold	4200	Former Civil Designer Retired 6/1/66	12/21/77
Segger, John W.	3215	Former Operator Retired 3/1/77	1/3/78
Varney, Albert C.	3303	Former Mechanic "A" Retired 6/5/74	12/25/77

Egyptian exhibit

(Continued from page 1)

drawn will be notified by mail and requested to send in their money at that time. Tickets not redeemed by May 1 will be offered to the employee whose name appears next on the drawing list.

King Tut invitation

I'd like to obtain ticket(s) to RTD's May 25 tour of the King Tut exhibit.

Employee name: _____

Badge no: _____ Work location: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____

No. of tickets wanted: _____ One _____ Two

MAKING HEADWAY

It's "My Three Sons" for Division 8 Operator Mike Kochanski and his wife, Cathy, whose third boy was born on October 7, 1977. Gary Joseph weighed a healthy 9½ lbs. Their two other sons are Michael and Marc.

Operator George Pepper of Division 1 and his wife, Susan, are the happy parents of Kristine Robin, born on January 2. Although she arrived two months ahead of schedule, the Peppers report that she's doing very well and grows more beautiful each day.

This time around it was a boy for Division 6 Mechanic "A" Russell Rose and his wife, Diane. Their latest addition to the family — Jason Michael — was born last October 2, joining sisters Tammy, 6 years old, and Cheryl, 3.

Daniel Rodriguez, Division 1 Mechanic, and his wife welcomed in the new year with a baby boy, born on January 9 at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. The infant weighed 5 lbs., 3 oz.

A 10-lb., 5-oz. boy was born to Wallace and Maudell Rayford, both Division 2 Operators. The birthdate of their son, Timothy, is December 11, 1977.



Virginia Ward Tanzmann, RTD Staff Architect, was recently accorded the honor of being appointed by the esteemed American Institute of Architects (AIA) as chairperson of the new "Women In Architecture Task Force."

In this position, she'll be responsible for promoting the full integration of women into the architecture profession's mainstream and will be travelling countrywide to accomplish this goal.

This appointment followed her organization of women's activities at last year's AIA Convention in San Diego where her efforts won national recognition.

A graduate of the Syracuse University School of Architecture, Tanzmann's past projects include the interior architec-

ture for the 12-story Delaware State Office Building; expansion of the Montclair Police Department; the U.C.L.A. Medical Center parking structure; and many stores, offices and other buildings.

Since she joined the District two years ago, she has been extensively involved in architectural improvements at Division 5 as well as in the modernistic interior design and furnishings at the new Division 7.

Bill Reason, RTD Audio-Visual Coordinator, has been accepted in Phi Delta Kappa, California State University Long Beach chapter. This organization is a professional society of men and women who are leaders in education, including college and university professors and researchers representing a wide range of subjects. Membership qualifications include extensive study and high academic standing at the graduate level.

Valentine's Day, February 14, was an extra special day for Millie and Al Hendricks, Security Guard II in the headquarters building. The couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on that date. They have a daughter, Lynne; son-in-law, Wayne; and three grandsons, Eric, Kevin and Darren.

Tom Nordstrom, son of Robert Nordstrom, Division 12 Operator, married Kathy McMillan on January 7 in Las Vegas. A few days later, son Tom also "hitched up" with Uncle Sam by entering the U.S. Air Force and is now taking basic training at the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.



The University of Wyoming in Laramie is the lucky recipient of a star Southland college football player. Ken Jones, 20-year-old son of Division 3 Operator Charles E. Jones, is transferring to the university there after building a reputation as an outstanding defensive back for two years for the Pasadena City College Lancers.

His proud father said Ken, who'll be studying business administration, has been athletically inclined since childhood and boasts a trophy room at home filled with honors for baseball, basketball and football.



A CLOCK WITH DICE instead of numerals was the eye-catching gift that Division 15 personnel gave Operator Mario N. Grisanti for his retirement. His friends there said it was an appropriate remembrance since Mario is fond of that famous city. Also at his January 26th party, marking the end of 19 years of bus transportation service, was a giant cherry cheesecake. Mario is shown here (center) accepting the clock from Instructor Charles Morris. Among the others who helped organize the Division 15 celebration were Assistant Instructor John Seale and Operator Ed Amundson.



AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT were evident in the reaction of this RTD telephone Information Clerk during a surprise party commemorating her recent marriage. Rita Zwirlein, now Mrs. George Cole, enjoyed cake, punch and hugs from her friends at RTD on January 20. The spending money they chipped in to give her was another happy surprise that afternoon. On the right is Information Clerk Marie Tervalon.

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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