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Eureka! At Long Last We Break Ground

After more than a decade of struggle, Metro Rail construction officially got underway September 29 at the site of the future Civic Center subway station at First and Hill Streets. For those in attendance, this long-awaited historic moment was as profoundly precious as driving the golden spike into the converging lines of the first transcontinental rail route must have been to those meeting at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869. Dozens of dignitaries joined RTD Board President Jan Hall in turning over the first shovels of dirt for the official groundbreaking.

"We've broken ground for a new era in Los Angeles public transportation," Hall noted. "America's second largest city will ride the rails of rapid transit into the 21st century."

Mayor Tom Bradley was exultant as he said, "More than 101 times I heard it said that Metro Rail was dead. We had the tenacity to push forward. That's how we got here today. I will never feel prouder than I do today."

More than a thousand persons including officials from local, state, and federal agencies, attended the groundbreaking ceremonies along with business and community leaders and other interested citizens.

They were entertained by Chinese ceremonial dancers performing the rite of good fortune, a Marine Corps band, and the International Children's Choir. In addition, guests were invited to view a modern rail car on loan from the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, and all in attendance at the historic occasion were asked to affix their signatures to a special aluminum monument that will be permanently installed at the Civic Center station in 1992 when Metro Rail's operations are scheduled to begin. The rail car was open for public viewing until 4:00 p.m.



RTD Board President Jan Hall, General Manager John A. Dyer, Central City Association Executive Director Chris Stewart, Mayor Tom Bradley, President of the Greater LA Transportation Coalition Steve Gavin, and RTD Director Nick Patsouras triumphantly unveil the sign of things to come - The Metro Rail car at the groundbreaking ceremony.

More than 21 speakers addressed the audience. Those speakers included: Mayor Tom Bradley; LACTC Chairman Deane Dana; CTC Chairman Joe Levy; Director of CALTRANS Leo Trombatore; UMTA Special Assistant for Public/Private Sector Liaison Keith Curry; CCA President Chris Stewart; representing her husband Senator Pete Wilson, Gayle Wilson; State Senator Diane Watson; State Senator Alan Robbins; Supervi-

sor Edmund Edelman; Supervisor Kenneth Hahn; City Council President Pat Russell; Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor William Robertson; President of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Ray Remy; SCAG Executive Director Mark Pisano; Councilman Gilbert Lindsay; Councilman Richard Alatorre; Councilman Mike Woo; President of the Greater Los Angeles Transportation Coalition

Steve Gavin; President of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Bill Welsh; and President of the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce George Allen. Among that number were familiar faces including former RTD General Manager Jack Gilstrap who presented the RTD Board with a plaque from the American Public Transit Association; and former RTD President Mike Lewis.

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District Holds First Operator Appreciation Day

The District hosted its first Bus Operator Appreciation Day at the divisions on September 30. The RTD and UTU joined Seattle's Metro among other transit properties across the United States who are letting their drivers know how much they care about them and the good job they are doing.

Coffee and donuts were served all day, banners acclaimed the day, and car cards printed with, "We go around the world for you more than 12 times a day!" were hung at all sites. Transportation superintendents visited the divisions before early morning roll-out.

While the RTD celebrated in a low-key fashion this year as compared to other transit agencies honoring their drivers with proclamations, speeches, and brass bands; next year the District plans to participate fully as Appreciation Day becomes a greater national event.

Other systems celebrating the



Division 10 lauds its drivers on Operator Appreciation Day. Front row, left to right: Senior Instructor Dick Small, April Morrissette, Duane Bonner, and Martha Feldra. Middle row, from left to right: Communications Representative Mercedes Nickerson, TOS Lon Harris, Maxine Lewis, Assistant Manager Evelyn Frizelle, Bertram Taylor, Sam Marozzi, Manager Harold Hollis, Mary Mathis, Pablo Cortes, and Robert Pitts. Back row, from left to right: Transportation Superintendent Wes McCarns, Richard Alvarado, Carl Sanders, Joe Jones, Bruce Montgomery, Simeon Ginyard, Willey Kelly, and Jesse Zimmerman.

day included Washington D.C.'s Metro; Denver Regional Transit District; Orange County Transit District; Syracuse Regional Transit; Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Clearwater Florida; Miami Valley Regional Transit, Dayton, Ohio; and Hillsborough Regional Transit, Tampa Florida.

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RTD President Jan Hall Reappointed to Women's Status Commission

RTD Board President Jan Hall in September was reappointed to the California Commission on the Status of Women by Governor Deukmejian. Ms. Hall has been a member of the commission, which examines the economic and social status of women in the state, since last November. Members receive \$50 per meeting and are reimbursed for expenses.

District Operators Shown Appreciation on Sept. 30

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Division 5 Operators gather round for Operator Appreciation Day. Front row, left to right: Felix Pierce, Harry Payne, Herbert Scott, Jim Brown, and Sedgwick McCray. Back row, from left to right: Communications Representative Mercedes Nickerson, Senior Instructor Jim Bernard, Transportation Superintendent Wes McCarns, and TOS (VO) Clarence Adams.



Division 3 touts its operators on Operator Recognition Day. Front row, from left to right: Charles Wilt, Raul Villegas, Leon Robertson, Janice Mustin, and Jaime Baltazar. Middle row, from left to right: Transportation Superintendent Wes McCarns, Carlos Bonilla, Ricardo Perez, Juan Soto, Earl Cobb, Angelo Arnone, Communications Representative Mercedes Nickerson, and Jesus Martinez. Back row, from left to right: Larry Pollard, Elmer Briscoe, Harold Hopkins, James Adams, Raul Alvarez, Odessa Davis, Charles Sailor, and Manager A.J. Taylor.

Service Cuts Cancelled

Major reductions in bus service proposed for December have been cancelled and service improvements may be possible in the next few months. Some minor revisions in service, however, will be made on December 28.

RTD President Jan Hall, said the decision to defer major service reductions was made after determining that federal funds to the RTD will remain at current levels. Earlier this year an expected shortfall in federal funds would have caused RTD to remove up to 80,000 hours of bus service, result-

ing in the service cuts planned for December.

With the welcome news from Washington, Hall said present service would remain virtually intact and some service may be added.

"This is truly good news for our riders," Hall said. "We have had to institute two rounds of service cuts in past months because of funding shortfalls. Now we may be able to add more buses on overcrowded lines."

If service cuts become necessary, they will not occur until March or June of next year.

New Recruitment System Uses PCs

The District recently installed a new PC-based system to help recruit technical professionals looking for employment. PC users can reach the system at (213) 972-6448 during non-business hours (5 p.m.—8 a.m.), with modem settings at 300 baud, data 7, modems 2, no parity, and full duplex.

According to Personnel Director Gayel A. Pitchford, RTD hires professional employees every month in

many diverse fields.

Not only is the PC-based system a good way for technical people to find out about career opportunities at RTD, Pitchford sees it as a way to get an important message to the public. "The transit industry is becoming 'high-tech,' and has a place for technical professionals. The RTD wants to utilize, stretch, and reward professionals ready to harness the power of today's technology," she said.

Top Operators Selected for Month of August

The awards for the Operator Recognition Program for the month of August were announced in the latter part of September. The presentations include the Manager's Award and the Sweepstakes Award. The program has as its purpose to recognize and reward the many bus operators who consistently perform in an outstanding manner.

The theme of the program is "In Pursuit of Excellence." Those operators excelling in their pursuit are listed below:

MANAGER'S AWARD

Division	Recipient	
3201	George N. Garrison	
3203	Richard R. Moran	
3205	Doris E. Harris	
3206	Audrey F. Alexander	
3207	Cerell Wells	
3208	Guillermo M. Mirano	3212
3209	Wm. A. Altermeier, Jr.	
3210	George Samoylenko	3215
3212	Bertha E. Kennedy	
3215	Porter L. Henry	
3216	Charles A. Olivas	3216
3218	Cassell D. Scott	

SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

Division	Winners	
3201	Billy J. Thomas	

3203	Bonifacio H. Campa
	Mario E. Ramos
	Daniel R. Keen
	Glenn A. Wallin
3205	James E. Mayes
	Susie A. Edmonds
	Richard L. Jones
3206	John O. Allen
	Martha Jones
	Gabriel D. Benitez
3207	Rondy C. Harris
	James W. McDuffie
	Orlando J. Medrano
3208	William Diaz
	William Y. Haddad
3209	Daniel M. Escoto
	Bonifacio J. Horta
	G. Rubalcaba
3210	L.M. Hamilton
	Emmett Gates
	Carol Tula
3212	Carl F. Corday
	William Smiley
3215	Oscar A. Najarro
	Norva E. Skaggs
	Marco F. Conde
3216	James W. Beach
	George A. Zeranko
3218	Larry J. Horne
	James D. Everett
	Jerome A. Young

District Teams Up To Catch Killer

The RTD, in a united effort with its exterior bus advertising franchisee, Winston Network, and the LAPD, initiated a publicity campaign on September 26 intended to increase community awareness through the use of exterior and interior bus ads leading to the arrest of the Southside Slayer. The ads display the composite sketch of the suspect along with the notice of a \$35,000 reward for any information leading to his apprehension. This is the largest award of its kind offered by the City and County of Los Angeles as a public inducement toward a killer's capture.

In a press conference unveiling the ads, LAPD Deputy Chief Jess

Brewer said, "This is a first, and we hope it will provide us with the break we need in this case."

RTD Board Director Nate Holden noted that the RTD Board of Directors was proud to participate in such a cooperative effort. "The RTD is happy to add its support in the eventual apprehension of this suspect and end his continual preying on the innocent, this violence against women," said Holden.

A total of 425 interior cards and 100 exterior ads were installed in and on buses operating out of Divisions 1, 5, and 18.

The billboards will be run on the buses until the killer is caught.



The RTD, LAPD, and the Winston Network join forces to apprehend the serial killer known as the Southside Slayer. RTD buses will display ads detailing the composite sketch of the suspect along with the notice of a \$35,000 reward. RTD Director Nate Holden speaks to the press about the new publicity campaign initiated September 26.

When's the Best Time To Retire?

When is the absolute best time to retire? Pension and Benefits Manager Ed Paull says right after the first of the year is a much better time to retire than at the end of the year. Why, you ask? He gave three reasons — "Taxes, taxes, and taxes!"

All earned sick pay and vacation pay is paid to the employee when he or she retires and this is taxable income. If this additional payoff is added to a year with less income, the tax impact will be *greatly* reduced. For example, as a bus operator you could earn \$30,000 a year. If you have 1,000 hours of sick leave and 300 vacation hours, you could be paid off more than \$15,000. If you added this \$15,000 to the \$30,000 you earned in the current year, you would have a gross taxable income of \$45,000 which would place you in the 23 percent tax bracket. However, if the \$15,000 would be added to a year with less income, the next year for instance, you would be taxed at a much lower percentage rate (approximately 9½ percent) and this would mean a greater tax dollar savings for you. It is important to take these facts into consideration when deciding the best time to retire. (Taxes were calculated for a married employee with two dependents according to 1986 tax charts. The newly enacted tax laws appear to offer a greater tax reduction for 1987 and beyond.)

Social Security also offers an employee a once-in-a-lifetime chance to legally double-dip from the Social Security system. This means that you can collect Social Security and a salary for part of a year. In any calendar year of retirement, you are allowed to earn \$5,760 in addition to your regular Social Security income if you are between the ages of 62 and 65. You are allowed to earn more — up to \$7,800 as a maximum annually if you are at least 65 and less than 70 years old. There is no limit if you are age 70 or older. The figures quoted are for 1986 only and generally go higher every year. Paull suggested that it would be a good idea to tell the Social Security office that you are planning to retire on January 1 and then continue working for a couple of months until you reach the maximum you are allowed to earn for your age group for the year. This way you can collect all the money you are allowed by law — an extra bonus for you. If you don't retire at the beginning of the year, you may earn only \$480 a month if you are between the ages of 62 to 65. If you earn more than that, you lose 50 cents on every dollar you earn. If you are at least 65, you may earn \$650 a month before you lose 50 cents on each dollar. As you can see, there are many factors to consider.

Paull stated, "The best time to retire can also depend on the pension plan option you select. Sometimes it works for you to be older and sometimes it's better to be younger." Since, the pension plan is calculated in "whole years" only, it is important to consider your exact age when you are about to retire. Paull explained "whole year" terminology: "An individual age 55 years, 5 months and 29 days is 55. An individual who is exactly 55 years and 6 months can be either older or younger depending upon which is in his/her best interest. But an individual who is 55 years, 6 months and 1 day is



Pension and Benefits Manager Ed Paul advises retiring Transportation Superintendent Jeff Diehl on his benefit options.

56." If you plan to collect on the lump-sum option, Paull said that it is better to be "younger" because it is assumed that you will live longer and therefore would receive more payments. It is best to have an "older" spouse especially if you selected the joint/survivor option. This plan reasons that it probably will not have to pay the survivor for as long a period of time and can mean higher payments for you. "Sometimes it is best to retire on your half-birthday," continued Paull. "We award the highest benefit possible, and on an employee's half-birthday, we have the option of picking the age that will best benefit the employee. We work with you to determine the best time for you to retire as well as the most beneficial option for you to select." About 30 percent of all retirees select the lump-sum option. All others are equally divided between the other retirement options which are (1) Life Annuity—payable as long as you live; (2) Joint/Survivor—100 percent; (3) Joint/Survivor—50 percent; and (4) Period Certain which can extend from 60 to 180 months.

Have you waited too long to retire? Paull said that a lot of people over the age of 62 are actually working for nothing. He further stated that "It could be that some employees are actually *paying* the District for the privilege of working." How could this be? Let's say that you qualify for \$1,000/month pension payment and this is generally a conservative estimate if you have 25 or 30 years of service. Social Security will pay you at least \$550/month (again, a conservative figure) and pay your spouse who has never worked \$275/month. Again, your situation may be very different from this one but we are using these figures to make a point. So if you didn't work at all, you would earn \$1,825 per month. Now, if you worked full-time at \$13.58 per hour and earned \$2,472/month, then paid income taxes, Social Security, union dues, pension deduction, and other expenses, you might take home less than the \$1,825/month paid to you for not working.

If your time for retiring is near and you would like to be sure you aren't working for nothing, get the information you need by attending the District-sponsored Retiree Seminar hosted by Roger Rose. Call Roger at extension 2093 to enroll. The next

retirement seminar will be held in November. Other programs are scheduled for February and April of 1987. If you are curious about your retirement benefits or are seriously considering retirement, call Ed Paull at extension 6165 to request a retirement estimate. Following receipt of the estimate, call again to make an appointment for your individualized counseling session. He will give you a detailed description of all the options open to you and give you the facts. But, in the end, the choice is up to you. Make a well-informed choice so your retirement years will be the best years of your life. — Hope Powell

New On-Bus Crime Reporting

Effective October 1, any passengers witnessing a crime aboard an RTD bus or at a bus stop in Hollywood and southwest Los Angeles were able to report it using a post card readily available on buses in those areas.

Pads of tear-off cards addressed to the RTD are now posted in the interior of all RTD buses serving 18 bus lines in Hollywood and southwest Los Angeles. The forms can be easily completed with information on the kind of crime committed, the time, and location.

RTD patrons can also call the RTD Transit Police to report the information.

"Our Transit Police Department has achieved a substantial reduction in crime over the past few years, but it wouldn't have been possible without the cooperation of the public in reporting crime," said RTD Vice-President Carmen Estrada. "This new form may make it easier for the patrons who help us. Also, we're hoping that, when shared with the LAPD, the information will result in improved deployment strategies for police resources."

RTD has designed the new car cards and forms in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department and other members of the Transit Law Enforcement Policy Task Force (TLEPTF).

How Green Is the Valley?

Through a joint demonstration project with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the RTD recently installed electronic systems on buses running along Ventura Boulevard that may reduce bus travel time by as much as seven percent. The system was unveiled at a special showing on September 15 in the San Fernando Valley.

This state-of-the-art device developed by 3M Opticom System is an electronic means of providing for green lights whenever a bus reaches an intersection along the 10-mile route that includes 49 traffic signals. Seventy-six (Neoplans, series 3400-3474, and AM Generals, series 8140-8174) RTD buses are equipped with the emitters, which transmit a high-intensity pulsating light beam to detectors mounted on traffic signals along the route. If the bus arrives at the intersection during a green light, the operator activates a spring-loaded switch which electronically overrides the signal command holding the green light up to an extra 10 seconds until the bus passes. If the light is red on approach, the signal controller provides an early green light.

The project was funded by City Proposition A allocations at a total cost of \$880,000; however, the investment is expected to decrease bus travel times by seven percent, improve schedule adherence, and reduce stopping and idling times. Minimizing idling times results in lower operating costs, greater fuel economy, and a reduction of noise and air pollution.

The 10-mile segment on Ventura Boulevard (between Reseda Boulevard and Vineland Avenue) was selected for this one-year test of the Opticom System because it is a heavily traveled commuter corridor with substantial bus ridership. Few high-volume streets cross the route, thus minimizing the impact of the signal pre-emption device to cross-street traffic.

Developers of the Opticom System stated at the demonstration that pedestrian time would still be guaranteed and that the override would not leave people stranded in cross-walks.

On hand at the presentation, Councilman Marvin Braude said, "This will get buses out of the way sooner. It should improve bus traffic and greatly relieve the congestion on Ventura Boulevard."



A state-of-the-art device developed by 3M Opticom System mounted on a traffic signal provides for green lights whenever a bus reaches an intersection along a 10-mile route of Ventura Boulevard.

To Your Health

The Six-Point Permanent Weight-Loss Program

1. Start a food diary.

The best reminder of your eating habits is a complete and an honest documentation of *all* the food you eat. Using a small pad, as the diary, write down everything you eat or drink — the quantity of food and where you ate. The diary will be helpful when you start your permanent weight loss program as it will show you where you eat, the time you eat, and, most importantly, how often you eat.

2. It's better to let food go to waste than to your waist.

The ABC's of weight loss:

A. To gain control of your appetite — cut your food in half, eat one half and throw the other half away, or share the other half with a weight-loss buddy.

B. Don't rush to finish food off your plate — eat moderately and slowly — don't eat in front of the TV or at the movies.

C. Second helpings are out! No matter who, what, or where, no second helpings — not even a bite.

3. Review your diary — Be honest!

The easiest way of cutting calories immediately is cutting out snacks and cutting your food in half with no second helpings. Literally, you don't change the type of food you eat, yet you change the quantity you eat. That way you don't deprive yourself of your favorite foods while you're cutting calories. (Cutting food in half means cutting a *normal* serving in half *with* no second helpings.)

4. Avoid overfill.

One of the enjoyments of eating is the warm satisfaction received after you finish eating. You may eat normally, but then you may exaggerate this eating by eating more than you need (the forbidden second helpings). You are now in the stage of overfill. Overfill is a habit of overeating, of forcing food until you are stuffed and full. (This often happens at Thanksgiving dinner.) For permanent weight loss you *must*



by Elia Hager
Visiting Nurse

modify this by eating smaller portions with no second helpings.

5. Slow down.

Acknowledge the food you eat and don't race through a meal. The problem with quick snacks, luncheon counters, and fast food chains is that they allow a person to rush through a meal and these foods are usually high-calorie meals. Slowing down allows you to enjoy your food, savoring the flavors. Slowing down makes you feel satisfied when you've actually eaten less. Rushing through your meals does not allow for the satiety center to be activated, your hunger is not satisfied and snacking begins.

6. An outline for permanent weight-loss.

A. For permanent weight-loss, do *NOT* rely on:

1. diet aids
2. fad diets
3. check-out stand booklets
4. calorie counters
5. advertised and expensive weight loss foods
6. wishful thinking

B. For permanent weight-loss INVEST in:

1. a good weight scale
2. daily exercise
3. supportive friends

C. For permanent weight-loss REMEMBER:

1. the why, where, and when of eating
2. avoid overfill
3. avoid and eliminate unnecessary habit eating at the movies, in front of TV, snack foods at a friends house or at your work station.
4. exercise and become a negative calorie consumer — expend more calories than you eat
5. weigh yourself regularly and become aware of your weight loss — reward yourself by taking in your clothes
6. no second helpings
7. be honest with yourself

If you have any questions about permanent weight loss just call me on extension 6225.

The Real Scoop on Smoking and Cigarettes

Unlike the manufacturers of other consumer goods, cigarette companies are not required by any state or federal regulatory agency to disclose what is in their product. According to the most recent U.S. Surgeon General's report there are, in addition to carbon monoxide, tar and nicotine, a large number of chemical components in both the gas and particulate phases of cigarette smoke. Some examples include: toluene, a narcotic affecting the central nervous system, and vinyl chloride, a known liver carcinogen. All told, there are about 4,000 known compounds generated by burning cigarettes.

Facts on Women and Smoking

Last year, for the first time in U.S. history, lung cancer exceeded breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among women. Again in 1986, it is expected to be the number one cancer killer of American women.

The number of female smokers has almost caught up with men, largely because more men have given up the habit. While 31% of the men in a recent Gallup Poll were smokers, an additional 29% of those polled said they had given up smoking. The percentage of women smoking was 28%, but only 17% said they had kicked the habit.

In 1963, 6,588 American women died of lung cancer; in 1986 the disease will kill an estimated 41,100.

For a woman between the ages of 35 and 44 who smokes more than two packs a day, cigarette-related medical bills and lost work will add up to an average of \$20,152 over her lifetime.

Between 1950 and 1983, the lung cancer death rate rose 402% for white women and 465% for non-white women. If lung cancer statistics are

Allan Styffe Recuperates from Legionnaire's

Former Administrative Services Officer Allan Styffe was admitted to Verdugo Hills Hospital in Glendale on July 8 for symptoms that included pneumonia, anemia, and severe weight loss. Doctors were unable to diagnose his illness at that time and it was several weeks before his condition was eventually determined to be Legionnaire's Disease. Only then was he able to receive the proper antibiotic treatment enabling him to recover.

It is believed that Styffe contracted this exotic virus in part because of his fascination with transit memorabilia. This is not to say that any or all transit buffs can expect to come down with Legionnaire's Disease, rather to comment that Styffe's hobby had, for him, a rare side effect.

After he retired, Styffe finally had the time to rummage through his many boxes of slides, books, and magazines that he had collected over the years. One old box of railroad magazines, sealed for over 20 years, when opened released a burst of mildew spores that had been germinating inside. He was stung by the initial explosion, and came down with what he thought was the worst case of allergy. However, he was soon to learn that his malady was a bit more serious. Spores carry the bacteria that can cause Legionnaire's Disease in humans.

He was released from the hospital on July 29, but was still recuperating two months thereafter. Styffe said he may have lost 50 pounds in the bout but he gained a lot of wisdom.

"I'm thankful to all the District folks who remembered me with phone calls, cards, and visits. Everyone treated me wonderfully," he said.



FEEL LIKE QUITTING?

If you're like most smokers,
you'd love to quit the habit.

Or, if you don't smoke,
why not adopt a smoker
and help a friend quit?

Join the **Great American Smokeout**
Thursday, November 20, 1986



COMMENDATIONS



RTD Retirees were recognized at the September 25 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented with plaques and an original poem by RTD Director Charles Storing. Front row, from left to right: Division 18 Operator Robert A. Kidwell, Transit Police Sergeant Eugene D. Lee, Communications Representative James F. Abernethy, and Schedule Maker William T. Beal, Jr. Back row, from left to right: General Manager John A. Dyer, Director Storing, Transit Police Chief James Burgess, UTU General Chairman Earl Clark, and Assistant General Manager for Planning and Marketing Albert Perdon.



Manager of Safety and Occupational Health Joseph G. Reyes recognized RTD employees for unparalleled safe performance. Each of the employees honored accumulated over 25 years of safe work performance for a combined total of 115 accident-free years of service to the District. They were awarded with rings or a watch or both. From left to right: Reyes, Division 14 Mechanic A Frederick Washington earned a 31-year Safety Award, Division 14 Mechanic A Leonard J. Davis earned a 27-year Safety Award, and Division 3 Operator Charles Walker earned a 31-year Safety Award. Back row, from left to right: General Manager John A. Dyer, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor I Steve Stairs, and UTU General Chairman Earl Clark. Now shown is Division 7 Equipment Maintenance Supervisor I George Washington who received a 26-year Safety Award.



Certificates of Merit were presented to the August Employees of the Month at the September 25 Board of Directors' Meeting by RTD Vice-President Carmen A. Estrada. Front row, from left to right: Vice-President Estrada, Division 9 Operator Frank El Fattal, and Information Operator Monica Macon. Back row, from left to right: General Manager John A. Dyer, Division 9 Manager Don Karlson, UTU General Chairman Earl Clark, and Director of Customer Relations Robert Williams. Not shown is the Maintenance Employee-of-the-Month Norma Hinrichsen.



Typesetting Layout Operator Jean Williams was selected the Printing Department's Employee of the Quarter for Fall 1986. Jean has been with the District for 15 years. Her supervisors commended her for her enthusiasm, cooperation, and willingness to perform beyond the call of duty. She has undertaken to enhance her position by learning and applying the latest technological advances in her field. Celebrating with Jean are Printing Department Manager Al Moore (left) and Layout Supervisor Art Issoglio (right).

Winning Suggestions Net Employees Big Bucks

Four employees were presented with monetary awards for outstanding suggestions at the September 25 Board of Directors' meeting.

Systems Electronic Communications Technician Robert Pressler of Facilities Maintenance received \$115. Pressler suggested that a valve be

installed in the pressurization manifold for the waveguide at each of the District's 21 microwave sites. Installation of the valve will save the District approximately \$1,155 annually by reducing equipment downtime and labor hours spent repairing the equipment, in addition to enhancing the reliability of the system.

Electrician Guido Dito of Facilities Maintenance earned \$1,000 for suggesting that the bus hoist control circuits at five operating divisions be modified to include pilot lights at each control panel. Installation of these lights will save the District approximately \$32,574 annually by reducing the amount of time spent searching for defective bus hoists. This modification will also extend the life of the motor by enabling the electrician to quickly identify the defective hoist.

Welder Bernard Mulder of South Park was awarded \$150 for designing a hand tool for dismantling power steering gear boxes at the workstand rather than carrying them to the hydraulic press. Use of this tool will save approximately \$1,500 by

eliminating damaged bushings and occupational injuries resulting from carrying the housing to the press room.

Mechanic Patrick Swaggerty of South Park was presented \$550 for designing a tool to compress V-6 and V-8 valve springs to remove and install retainers. Use of this tool will save the District approximately \$5,500 annually by enabling the valve springs to be compressed at one time thus reducing the amount of time spent tearing down heads. This tool will also reduce the number of parts damaged.

Recuperating Retiree Seeks Comforting Words

Retired Division 8 Operator John Donovan is recuperating from emphysema which he believes he contracted while visiting Ireland. John would like to hear from his old RTD friends. Send your cards and letters to John Donovan, 8629 Burnet Avenue, Unit #4, Sepulveda, CA 91343.



Suggestion Award Winners — Received monetary awards at the September 25 Board of Directors' Meeting. From left to right: Pat Swaggerty, Bernard Mulder, Guido Dito, Director of Personnel Gayel A. Pitchford, and Robert Pressler. Back row, from left to right: General Manager John A. Dyer, RTD President Jan Hall, Supervisor I Armando Carillo, Supervisor I Frank Humberstone, Acting Supervisor Fred L. Her, and Supervisor I Bob Boehr.

Big Deal Retirement Party Sends Off Diehl

Transportation Superintendent Geoffrey L. Diehl rang down the final curtain on his 39-year District career at a retirement dinner held in his honor at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank on October 2.

Vehicle Operations Manager Bill Bennett opened the ceremonies by playing Phillip Glass' theme music from the 1984 Olympics, asking people if they remembered Jeff Diehl as the coordinator of this most special and successful event. Bennett praised Diehl for "having given his all for 39 years. No one knows the streets better than my mentor, my boss, and my friend — Jeff Diehl."

Following Bennett's introduction of Diehl's family at the head table, Staff Aide Stan Bennett offered the invocation for the evening.

The master of ceremonies for the party, Senior Planner Russ Wilson, kept a tight rein on the parade of personalities who as it turns out were a veritable Greek chorus alternately praising, eulogizing, and roasting the honoree.

Retired Director of Transportation Roland Krafft said Diehl's departure would be a tremendous loss to the Transportation Department. Krafft also introduced retirees in the audience. They included Jim Baker, Ray Bierman, George Boos, George Wells, Teiche Namatame, George Pappas, Allan Styffe, John Seale, Jerry Woods, Carl Carlson, Joe Cooper, and Jean Betty Johnson. Also introduced were former Director of Transportation Bill Foster, and representatives from the City of Santa Monica and the Hollywood Bowl.

Transportation Superintendent Leilia Bailey offered to tell about Diehl's transit history. Diehl hired on in 1948 moving up the ranks from the extra supervisory position, beginning with the Los Angeles Transit Lines. Of the man, Bailey said, "Jeff is precise, knowledgeable, consistent and by the book! God help you if you make a mistake." She thanked him for his friendship and all that she learned from their association.



Lillian and Jeff Diehl at their retirement party held at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank on October 2.

Retired Administrative Services Officer Allan Styffe presented Diehl with a photograph of the streetcars Diehl had operated. "It rained tonight with both thunder and lightning," said Styffe. "It appears that God is not pleased that Jeff is leaving the District in its most dire need," he continued with tongue firmly in cheek.

Director of Transportation Ed Nash, on behalf of the Transportation Department, awarded Diehl with a plaque. "You are a strong manager. You ran Operations Control and did a superb job," said Nash.

Transportation Manager Ralph Wilson read messages from special invited guests who could not attend the ceremonies. They included Sam Black, Ralph and Billie Costello, George Goehler, and Ted and Paddie Brennen. The Brennens sent Diehl a 1946 LATL map with an emergency transfer.

Stops and Zones Supervisor Pete Serdienis gave Diehl his very own bus stop sign inscribed with "RTD - a subsidiary of the Boulder City Transit System: 608 — Green Rattler Express."

Former RTD Associate Counsel Sharon Smith wreathed Diehl's neck

with a home-made lei from which hung a 45 of Johnny Paycheck's hit "Take This Job and Shove It."

Transportation Superintendent Wes McCarns decided to let bygones be bygones even though Jeff Diehl "gave me my first write-up" and presented him with the Retirement Club check.

Treasurer Joe Scatchard, describing himself as a "bean counter" said while he and Diehl didn't have daily interaction over the years he knew Diehl to have a reputation for being "tight with a buck." With that Scatchard offered Diehl his expense account check.

Acting Superintendent of Operations Control and Services Dan Ibarra presented Diehl with scrolls signed by Diehl's many friends and co-workers.

No retirement ceremony would be complete without the presentation of the traditional watch. Acting Supervisor of Passenger and Lease Services Joe Uresti presented a watch to Diehl along with a Safety Performance Certificate from the Safety Department. "You're only as good as your leader," said Uresti. "Department 3296 is losing a darn good one," he said.

Supervisors Rene Angelo, Don Baumgartner, Al Boctor, and Acting Radio Dispatch Manager Larry Cosner offered Diehl a whole new avocation to take up when they made him a present of a camera. Al Boctor made a moving tribute to Diehl prior to the presentation quoting Sugar Ray Robinson.

Maintenance Superintendent Sam Singer presented Diehl with a table lamp made from an antique fare-box and said, "This is to Jeff Diehl for 39 years of friendship and dedication."

Staff Aide Stan Bennett presented an album of memorabilia detailing Diehl's accomplishments in his near four decades in transit.

After sitting through nearly two hours of people talking about him, Diehl got his chance to respond. "I'm simply overwhelmed by the attendance, by all the retirees and other guests here. I'm grateful to all those who took a chance on me and encouraged me," he said.

"To the people taking over OCS, I'm leaving the department in good hands. They are real professionals. I thank you all."

"To all of our friends: the town we're moving to is 125 miles north of Las Vegas. It has no legalized gambling. I want you to know that any RTD employees who come to Las Vegas and find themselves temporarily without funds, we will give you a warm meal, a place to sleep for the night, and enough gas to get you back to LA. But we'll only do it once!" Diehl growled characteristically.

Diehl mentioned in his closing remarks that he may have been a hard-line supervisor, "But I've wavered a bit from time to time." His by-the-book method of management and occasional wavering proved to earn him the respect of over 200 people who would not let a bleak, rainy night stop them from watching him take his last bow before the curtain fell.

Jeff and his wife, Lillian, moved to the desert community of Boulder City, Nevada in the latter part of October.

Division 10 Fixes Eye-Openers

Several Division 10 operators rose long before sunup on September 17 to prepare an eye-opener breakfast for their workmates in an effort to raise funds for the division barbecue.

The breakfast club, comprised of Annette Buckhalter, Patty Scranton, Faith Faring, Wilbur James, B.J. Citizen, and Louella Houston, opened the kitchen at 3:00 a.m. enticing fellow operators with the aroma of freshly brewed coffee along with sizzling bacon, eggs, sausage, hash browns, whole wheat toast, grits, and orange juice for only \$3.

By 8:30 a.m. the crew had served 150 operators. By 10:00 a.m. their customers numbered well over 300.

Breakfast Coordinator B.J. Citizen said it only took 3 days to plan for the event. "We spent \$327 to buy the supplies, by 8:30 we had already recovered our expenses," she said. The committee was well fortified having purchased 400 double-yolk eggs,

120 lbs. of meat, 118 lbs. of potatoes, 30 loaves of bread, and 15 lbs. of grits.

"The response has been great," said Citizen. "Now, the drivers want us to do it once a month. They go out

full, they're happy."

The breakfast committee began cooking at 1:30 a.m., started serving at 3:00 a.m. and did not shut down the kitchen until 10:00 a.m.



The Division 10 Breakfast Club Committee included (from left to right): Louella Houston, Patty Scranton, B.J. Citizen, Annette Buckhalter, Wilbur James, and Faith Faring.

**By the year 2000,
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Division 15 Has Annual Barbecue in September

Division 15 held its annual Maintenance-Transportation barbecue on September 26, pulling together what seemed like a pot-luck family affair.

Coordinator Bucky Buchanan started it off by bringing his special baked beans, UTU Local Chairman Stephen Smith brought potato salad, Assistant Manager Joe Putt brought 300 cupcakes, Dispatcher Barbara Maycott and Operator Wanda Banket baked the cornbread, and Operator Barbara Winter's husband donated the juices.

The menu also included ribs, chicken, hotlinks, cole slaw, and various desserts.

With funds raised from previous raffles and donations from the District and UTU, the division purchased 70 slabs of ribs, 70 chickens, and 60 lbs. of hot links, and a lot of barbecue sauce. The committee started rattling the pots, pans, and drums at 11 p.m. on September 25 and opened the serving line at 9 a.m. the following

morning. Service continued until 4 p.m.

Asked what the reaction around the division was to the food, Cook John Jimenez said, "People said it was terrific!"

Manager Ron Reedy felt the barbecue was a good way to build rapport between employees and management. "I think with the constant pressures applied to operators these days, they need to know we are behind them. We've got some dedicated people here. It's a shame they have to take the abuse they have been getting — they deserve better," said Reedy.

Barbecue committee members included: John Maynor, Wanda Banket, Kenneth Keyes, George Coatworth, Ernest Scotti, Nasir Mia, Paul Caronna, Roosevelt Benjamin, Solester Watts, John Jimenez, Bucky Buchanan, Eunice Culbert, Everett "Woody" Wooden, Celia Denning, Maria Cuellar, and Barbara Winters.



Division 15's Barbecue Committee included Coordinator Robert Buchanan, Manager Ron Reedy, Kenny Keyes, UTU Chairperson Stephen Smith, John Maynor, Eunice Culbert, John Jimenez, Wanda Banket, Nasir Mia, Cecelia Deming, and Paul Caronna.

Fuentes Honored for Social Club's Charitable Efforts



A Cash-Counting Clerk Jose Fuentes and Security Guard Joe Catalano discuss the latest activities of the Club Social Cultural Colimense.

On weekdays Cash Counting Clerk Jose Fuentes counts the money collected through RTD fareboxes. When off-duty, Jose is busy counting the funds and supplies collected through the organization of which he is treasurer, the Club Social Cultural Colimense.

Fuentes, a native of the state of Colima, Mexico started the organization two years ago. The purpose of the club is to promote cultural understanding. As a charitable project the club began collecting hospital and medical supplies for the disadvantaged in Colima. These supplies include second-hand crutches, wheelchairs, etc. Recently, Jose was honored for the generous work done by the organization at a dinner-reception in Tijuana. Fuentes has been with the District for 15 years. His wife Marta is also employed by the RTD as a mail clerk.

"Most people in Colima are so very proud. They will make their own crude crutches or canes. Some may even neglect to get proper medical treatment because they are ashamed to be seen without the proper devices," said Fuentes.

In the early days of organizing the club, Fuentes said he was worried about getting enough members to fill his living room. Now he said the organization has grown to include so many that he is grateful to the *Noticias del Mundo* newspaper for lending

them space to hold membership meetings.

The club meets once a month and periodically holds fund-raising dances or dinners. The club sent \$600 last year to the Mexico City earthquake victims. At the fund-raising dinners, the traditional dinner of Pozole Colimense is served. The dish is a delicious stew consisting of hominy, pork, and topped with chili.

As the organization has matured, the time has come to apply for non-profit status. "We have submitted our application as a non-profit organization. It will put us in a better position to help people. At the same time we are in desperate need of office space and office supplies. We've outgrown my basement," said Fuentes.

Fuentes has recruited several of his co-workers in the Cash-Counting Office to participate in the club's good works, including Security Guard Joe Catalano and his wife Patricia who finds various medical supplies and devices at the garage sales she frequents.

Membership is open to anyone interested in helping the cause. Dues, which are \$5 a month, go toward the benefit of hospitals. Those interested in joining may do so by calling Jose Fuentes at 482-5356.

The club will send another shipment of supplies to Colima in November. Donations of money payable to the organization or medical supplies will be accepted until November 16.

Two RTD Employees Place in County Fair Competition



Two RTD employees took awards in the Home Arts competition sponsored by the 1986 County Fair in Pomona. Benefits Technician Andre Hanna (left) won a fifth-place ribbon for the child's afghan he crocheted. Andre crocheted the rainbow-colored afghan in 1½ weeks. OCPM General Clerk I Dorothy Benninghoven, who is responsible for the payroll for Stores personnel, won three awards in the Preserved Foods competition. She won two third-place awards for her Kiwi preserves and corn relish and a fourth-place ribbon for her zucchini relish.

Transit Golf Club News

With the end of the 1986 golf year drawing near, your Transit Golf Club officers have been scheduling tournaments for 1987. At this time we have reserved nine courses for the new year and will have a schedule of tournaments ready before December. Some of the courses that we will play are El Rancho Verde, Whittier Narrows, Mountain View, Montebello, Sandpiper, Brookside, Marshall Canyon, and Alhambra. Along with these sites we are trying to reserve a few ocean courses for the summer months. So, the year of 1987 promises to be another exciting season for all RTD employees, retirees, and friends.

Our next tournament will be at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena on December 13. First tee time will be at

10 a.m. The cost for this tournament will be \$20 (includes green fees, trophies, and prizes). Along with this, the Transit Golf Club officers are planning a surprise for all participants during the awards ceremony. The deadline for all entries will be December 3.

Since the American Golf Corporation assumed management of Brookside over a year ago, this course is in the best condition that I have ever seen and now attracts golfers from outside Los Angeles County. It is also being reviewed for the PGA Tour.

In next month's article, we will definitely have information on becoming a member of the Transit Golf Club in 1987. — J. Falcon

Metro Rail: Groundbreaking Ceremony

Continued from page 1

RTD Board Director Marvin Holen in his address praised the leadership of Gilstrap and John A. Dyer and said, "This day is a combined effort of the business community, labor, and the public sector. All together we managed to defeat that disease afflicting the body politic known as 'decision paralysis.' Ten years is too long to wait for a

way on two key elements of that regional system. The 21-mile Long Beach to Los Angeles light rail line will connect with Metro Rail at 7th and Flower streets. The Long Beach line, in turn, will intersect the 17-mile Century Freeway light rail line, which, in turn, will provide rapid rail transit service between LAX and Norwalk.

Even as the Marine Corps band played the "Stars and Strips Forever," work crews downtown already were engaged in relocating utility lines in preparation for the start of major construction, which should be underway by the end of the year.

Construction of MOS-1 should be completed in five years. In the meantime, RTD is proceeding on schedule with its Congressionally Ordered Re-Engineering (CORE) study to realign a portion of the 18.6-mile Metro Rail route to avoid tunneling through methane gas risk zones in the Fairfax area.

Planning for groundbreaking began months prior through the cooperative efforts of at least 10 District departments and was coordinated by Project Manager Tony Fortuno. To list all the contributors would take up as

much space as the credits to *Gone With the Wind*. But, why not? We don't have a groundbreaking everyday. All those who helped make groundbreaking such a super day included:

METRO RAIL

James Strosnider, Director of Construction Management
Bill Rhine, Director System Design & Analysis
John Bilco, Project Engineer

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Barry Engelberg, Director of Federal and State Liaison
Priscilla Adler, Legislative Analyst
Janis Whirlidge, Legislative Analyst
Roger Slagle, Legislative Analyst



RTD employees got up early to set the stage for the Metro Rail groundbreaking.

groundbreaking!"

The groundbreaking ceremonies marked the start of construction of Metro Rail's first 4.4-mile segment (Minimum Operable Segment-1, or MOS-1), extending between Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to Wilshire and Alvarado Streets.

Five subway stations at Union Station, First and Hill, Fifth and Hill, Seventh and Flower, and Wilshire and Alvarado will be located along this route.

The \$1.25 billion MOS-1 phase also includes construction of a train storage yard, maintenance shops, and central control facilities that eventually, will serve the entire Metro Rail line linking downtown Los Angeles and North Hollywood via the Wilshire Corridor, one of the densest residential and employment corridors in the nation.

The full Metro Rail alignment eventually will serve as the backbone of a 150-mile regional rail system that Los Angeles County voters approved in 1980 when they adopted a local half-cent sales tax for transit improvements. It will link downtown Los Angeles with the San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica, and Orange County.

Construction already is under-



Spectators at the groundbreaking ceremony were encouraged to sign their names as part of the day's record. The signatures will be affixed to the aluminum RTD monument which was unveiled at the ceremony.



Over 1,000 people attended the ceremony to break ground for Metro Rail.



One hundred shovels were specially prepared for the day. The shovels were painted white and detailed with the RTD logo and the legend: Metro Rail Groundbreaking Ceremony — September 29, 1986.



RTD Board President Jan Hall emceed the groundbreaking ceremony, charming the audience with her exuberant energy and ingenious excitement.



The RTD Building & Grounds Department prepared and maintained the grounds weeks before for the public's enjoyment of them on groundbreaking day.

Draws Over 1,000 as History Is Made

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Lou Collier, Director of Community Relations
 Manny Hernandez, Senior Community Relations Representative
 Clarence Brown, Senior Community Relations Representative
 Al Reyes, Community Relations Coordinator
 Nell Soto, Community Relations Representative
 Tom Chung, Community Relations Representative
 Ottis Hendricks, Community Relations Representative
 Wanda Flagg, Community Relations Representative
 Herb Cranton, Community Relations Representative
 Renita Bowlin, Senior Secretary

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 Elandy Cox, Secretary
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 Jim Burgess, Transit Police Chief
 Dave Deluca, Lieutenant
 Gilbert Rascon, Investigator
 Carl Little, Investigator
 Philip Suchowski, Transit Police Officer
 Carlos Diaz, Transit Police Officer
 William Thomson, Transit Police Officer
 George Thompson, Transit Police Officer
 Jim Lee, Transit Police Officer
 Sue Perkins, Transit Police Officer
 Brenda Grinston-Asem, Transit Police Officer
 Shari Barberic, Transit Police Officer
 Richard Witte, Security Guard
 John Davis, Security Guard
 Robert Lee, Security Guard
 Keith Bowlin, Security Guard
 William Henderson, Security Guard
 William Gutierrez, Security Guard
 Isagani Sagun, Security Guard
 Anastacio Puente, Security Guard
 John Johnson, Security Guard
 James Cook, Security Guard
 Robert Zasadil, Security Guard

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 Cassell Scott, Operator - Div. 18
 Marvin Fite, Operator - Div. 18
 Charles Olivas, Operator - Div. 16
 Carmine Zeccardi, Operator - Div. 15
 Jesse Wilson, Operator - Div. 15
 E. Paternoster, Operator, Div. 12
 Howard Brenchley, Operator - Div. 12
 Robert Pitts, Operator - Div. 10
 Herbert Orange, Operator - Div. 10
 Arnold Van Gordon, Operator - Div. 9
 Jose Arizmendi, Operator - Div. 9
 Candelario Gomez, Operator - Div. 8
 Leonard Smith, Operator - Div. 8
 David Doakes, Operator - Div. 7
 Lucy Flores, Operator - Div. 7
 Leleen Porter, Operator - Div. 6
 Charles Pope, Operator - Div. 5
 Carl Winston, Operator - Div. 5
 Robert Marin, Operator - Div. 3

Kris Sharp, Operator - Div. 3
 Lonnie Anders, Operator - Div. 1
 Felix Rubio, Operator - Div. 1

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 Richard Clifford
 Robert Skarseth

Buildings & Grounds Section

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 Richard Kovack, Supervisor
 Frank R. Nelson, Supervisor
 Chuck F. Nickoley, Supervisor
 Eric A. Nordquist, Supervisor
 Gil S. Ochoa, Supervisor
 Ramon Alatorre
 Agapito Alvarez
 Gilbert Anzures
 Walter Brown
 Ramon De La Paz
 Marvin Fredericks
 Francisco Garcia
 Ramon Gutierrez
 Richard Hatchett
 Raymond Kelley
 Frank Morales
 Donald Parvin
 Luis Pedemonte
 Christine Phillips
 Enrique Ponce
 Willie Russel
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 Billie Strong
 Manuel Suarez
 Paul Tassone

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 Ted Desy, Supervisor
 Lawrence Abrams
 Virgilio Garion
 Arturo Conoza
 Arthur Martinez
 William Sloper
 Walter Koehl
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 Albert Lopez

Body Shop

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Weld Shop

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 Johan Meyer
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 Candace Courreges

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Rudy Melendez, Supervisor
 Guillermo Burgos
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 Manuel Gonzales
 Richard Corvera
 Daniel Hernandez
 Oscar Zamora
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Screen Shop

Lee Cayen, Supervisor
 Ken Phelps
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Frame Shop (Welders)

George Asato, Supervisor

Manuel Ramos
 Frederick Scipio
 Doug Campbell
 Frank Hernandez
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Machine Shop

Abe Barron, Supervisor
 Manuel Macias
 Albert Sampson

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Rick Carron, Contract Administration Manager
 Cathleen Johnson, Contract Administrator



Operators Marvin Fite and Cassell Scott acted as hosts during the groundbreaking ceremony on September 29.



Director of Marketing and Communications Tony Fortuno briefed former RTD General Manager Jack Gilstrap before he made his groundbreaking presentation.



The Immortals perform the Chinese Ceremonial Lion Dance at groundbreaking. The dance, having magical properties, is said to cast good luck or fortune on any project or new business.



The United States Marine Corps Band from El Toro Air Station seemed to galvanize the attendees at the ceremony, creating a stirring, exciting event as the brass sounded and the drums rolled.



Mike Barnes explores the interior of the rail car borrowed from BART for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Mechanic Enjoys High Tea with PM Thatcher

For Division 5 Mechanic A Ida Houston, being there was like stepping into a time machine. "It was something I'll never forget!" That "something" Ida's talking about is having had tea with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. This wasn't Maggie throwing a Lipton tea bag into hot water. This was high tea at No. 10 Downing Street.

It all began when Ida's brother, Leroi Houston, a senior eligibility director in San Francisco's Department of Public Social Services, won a trip to London for two on British Airways' "Go for it, America" promotional giveaway this June. To bolster the faltering tourism trade in the wake of terrorism plaguing continental Europe, Great Britain sponsored the contest. Over 5,000 Americans won the free one-week trips.

"My brother and I left San Francisco International following a big send-off. We had to get there two hours early. It was pretty festive with the caviar and champagne," said Ida. All 5,200 of the contest winners left the United States at approximately the same time to converge on the United Kingdom through London's Heathrow Airport. "We had a big welcome at that airport, too. We didn't even have to go through Customs."

From Heathrow, Ida and her brother were escorted to the Cumberland Hotel on Hyde Park. "About 30 minutes after we arrived at our hotel, Leroi and I were invited to a reception. We didn't know what it was all about, but we were asked to go to 116 Pall Mall." This distinguished address houses the Institute of Directors, a high-powered think-tank. At the Institute Ida and Leroi mixed with



Division 5 Mechanic A Ida Houston (in the dark suit directly behind Margaret Thatcher who is wearing the polka-dot dress) listens to the Prime Minister's historical overview of the contents of No. 10 Downing Street.

the other guests invited to the reception. "We weren't there very long before an official came to tell us — out of the blue — that we'd all been invited to No. 10 Downing Street to have tea with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. It was a big surprise. None of us were expecting that." British Airways had scheduled the unanticipated visit for only 30 of the total 5,200 winners.

The group was then bused to the P.M.'s quarters and greeted by Mrs. Thatcher. "We actually had tea with her. She served us cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off. She was so gracious. She was all I

expected her to be. I shook her hand on three different occasions." Following the tea, Mrs. Thatcher gave Ida and her group a tour of the residence. "She explained about the historical furnishings, photos, and paintings. We were taken into the Cabinet room. Did you know that the prime minister's chair is the only one with armrests in the room? She made a point of that, and told us that the next time we saw her on TV, we'd know that." The group, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Charles Price II, was taken through the entire residence and courtyard. "Anybody who was anybody — the Queen Mother, Winston

Churchill, etc. — walked there," said Ida, still in awe of her experience. "It's a weird feeling to have read or seen pictures of those people and yourself — to finally see them those places — it's like a dream, like stepping into a time machine."

Each member of the group was given a souvenir book of No. 10 Downing Street personally autographed by Mrs. Thatcher.

"We were told we weren't allowed to ask questions. Maybe they were afraid I was going to ask her why she isn't doing more for South Africa," Ida said impishly. "She told us what her daily schedules are like. I couldn't help but wonder when she sleeps." Ida and the others spent 50 minutes with the prime minister. They were then escorted to the door by Mrs. Thatcher. "When we exited No. 10 Downing there were as many reporters and newspeople out on the street as there were polka dots on her dress."

Following their visit with the Prime Minister, Ida and her brother had six more days in which to enjoy London. They visited Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, among the many famous sights. "I can't recall half of what I saw, it was so much."

Ida struck out on her own, losing her tour group to try "some of the everyday things" of the city. She met a Londoner who invited her home in East London. Now she has a pen pal, she said with satisfaction. "But meeting Margaret Thatcher was the high point because it was so unexpected. It was such a thrill. I get goose bumps thinking about it again, and I've never even been to Washington, D.C. to see the White House."

Finding Each Other, They Wed 34 Years Later

What happens to a dream deferred? If you were to ask Telephone Information Operator Luana Lopez-Ledesma



Telephone Information Operator Luana Lopez-Ledesma on the day of her wedding to her childhood sweetheart Division 18 Operator Trinidad Ledesma after a separation of 34 years.

ma today, she would tell you that they come true, although sometimes slowly.

Thirty-four years ago, when Luana was a teenager of age 16, she had many dreams. One of them was

to be a musician — an accomplished violinist. To help her along her parents hired a music teacher. Not uncommon among adolescent girls, Luana developed an attraction for her male teacher. "He was 23 years old at the time and I thought he was too old, but I had a crush on him," said Luana. Unknown to her at the time, her teacher Trinidad Ledesma, was also attracted to her. Teaching her became extremely difficult for him. The times being more socially restrictive then, he felt he could not ask Luana's mother for permission to date her. "I remember we terminated my lessons when he said he had taught me all he knew and it was time I moved on to a more advanced teacher. He left that way." Luana was not to see him again for 34 years although she would occasionally hear of him through mutual friends.

In the meantime, Luana finished high school, married, and settled down to raise the five children she was to have.

After her 23-year marriage ended nine years ago, Luana began to think about taking up the violin again. After all, her children were grown and she had lots of time on her hands. It was at this time she had a chance meeting with her old music teacher's sister-in-law, Trinidad Ledesma's first wife's sister, Phyllis. His wife died

years earlier. Luana told Phyllis to have Trinidad call her. "He didn't call me. I think he figured I was still married," said Luana. A whole year went by before Luana was to run into Phyllis again. After that second meeting, Phyllis made it clear to her brother-in-law, Trinidad, that Luana was single again.

"He called me and I immediately recognized his voice. We must have talked for two hours. It was wonderful. I discovered we had so much in common," she said. Trinidad and Luana spoke for the first time in 34 years on a Monday and made plans to meet on Friday. "By Tuesday, he had already called me four times. So, I told him we shouldn't wait but meet as soon as we could. He came over that night."

At age 60, it had been quite some time since Trinidad dated. His adult children who still lived at home with him noticed the look of alarm and tension on his face. "He told them he had a date with me but he had no clothes and no car. His daughter loaned him her corvette, and his son dressed him so he could go courting," said Luana chuckling.

From their first date Luana said there was a great deal of comfort and compatibility. "I had no doubt that we would marry someday." And they did on September 21, 1985, followed by a

one-week honeymoon to Manzanillo, Mexico.

"The spark between us doesn't end. It is like a dream come true," said Luana beaming. "He is my best friend. When I feel down in the dumps, he's the first person I think of going to. It feels like we've been together forever, we are so comfortable." Through the three decades that they were separated, both say that neither one of them forgot about the other. "The funny thing is that while I got Trinidad back in my life, I haven't started my music again — someone stole my violin. Oh, well, today we make a different kind of music," she said with a devilish smile.

Trinidad and Luana carry their togetherness into the workplace. She works for the RTD Customer Relations Department while Trinidad is an operator at Division 18. "I want to thank Annadean Arroyo for steering us to the RTD. I never thought I could be this happy. We are both so happy with each other and with our jobs." Trinidad and Luana made sure they share the same days off — Wednesday and Thursday.

When Luana paused to consider the irony of her situation, she shook her head in amazement at the turns in her life and said, "It was one of those things that should have been, never was, and now is — awesome, isn't it?"

Zen and the Art of an RTD Bus Driver

Operator Has Efficient Force with Him

In all things, whether it is driving a bus or practicing his martial arts, Line Instructor Louis Trammell, Jr.'s approach approximates something close to the Zen system of thought — that Eastern philosophy emphasizing states of mental tranquility and fearlessness.

"I believe in the Japanese philosophy that maintains one should stay calm in every situation," said Trammell in a voice as quiet as a still pond. The *Headway* met with Trammell in late afternoon at Division 3 where in the train room he was patiently helping his 8-year-old daughter Valerie with her homework. "If you keep your mind calm as a pool of water, everything is reflected clearly. If not, it's like throwing a rock in and creating a thousand ripples," he said employing aphorisms in the way of a Zen master instructing a disciple.

This summer he placed second in his weight class at the Southern California Judo Championships, a rather remarkable feat in that Trammell had to compete against men half his age. He is the third oldest man actively competing in Judo championships, the oldest competitor being Seki Nase of Saudi Arabia who is 48. For Trammell it has and most likely will continue to be a life-long avocation.

When Trammell joined the Air Force in 1958, his martial arts background was put to immediate use at Vandenberg Air Force Base. While stationed there, he instructed the military police in weapons defense techniques. Among his students were British constables. Shortly after that assignment, he received orders to Lakenheath, England. There he assumed the duties of a self-defense instructor for the Royal Air Force's

them at all the divisions. "I think operators are often in vulnerable situations where there is a physical threat. Using minimum force-maximum efficiency is not only a good defense for them, but limits the liability to the company."

He instructs senior citizens, teaching them to use their canes or crutches as weapons. He teaches a 12-year-old blind student who, recently, qualified for a green belt in Ju-Jitsu. With women, Trammell shows them how not only to exert themselves but how to assert themselves as well. "Women tend to telegraph their fear to potential attackers. We teach them how not to do that."

Trammell maintains that he can teach anyone, but he reserves the right to be selective about his students. "We look for maturity in our students. After all, we are teaching a lethal art. If we see a 'bully' attitude in a student we try to turn that around. If it is not possible we let them go. We do not meet force with force. We bend like the willow," said Trammell with the faintest smile.

Trammell not only promotes aspects of Japanese tradition but he carries on some traditional homespun American values as well. He is the son of an RTD bus operator with 35 years of service — Louis Trammell, Sr. Like his father, he enjoys the trappings of his job, being outside and meeting people. He said he is uncomfortable living under the artificial sunlight of office buildings.

Trammell resides in West Covina with his wife, Veronica, and their children Louis III, 26; Phillip, 21; Chris, 15; and Valerie, 8.



Division 3 Line Instructor Louis Trammell, Jr., disarms his attacker through the use of his skill in the martial art of Ju-Jitsu.

Trammell, long a lover of Japanese culture, teaches one of its foremost martial arts, Ju-Jitsu, which he has incorporated into his self-defense classes for women and senior citizens. Many of his students have included RTD employees and their families. He describes this art as one with a minimum of force but the maximum of efficiency. "This is an art of passive resistance. Just as water will always find the path of the least resistance."

While his boyhood contemporaries were busy playing football and baseball, an 8-year-old Louis was drawn by his Japanese-American neighbors practicing Ju-Jitsu on their lawn. It was as different as anything Trammell had even seen. He wanted to learn and was initiated into the martial arts by his Nisei neighbors. He continued his studies through the YMCA in later years.

Today, at age 46, Trammell is a ranked black belt in Kodokan Judo, Kodenkan-style Ju-Jitsu, Shorin-Ryu-style Karate, and is busy studying Iaido in order to receive his ranking in the art of Japanese sword fighting.

The belt rankings begin with white (novice) progressing to green (advanced beginner) then advancing to brown (intermediate) and, finally, to the attainment of black (expert). "In the old days of martial arts, everyone wore white. The more a student studied, the dirtier his gi (traditional martial arts suit consisting of jacket, pants and belt) and belt became. It became brown then black. Hence, the belt rankings," said Trammell.

constables. While in Europe, he maintained his position on the USAF Strategic Air Command's Judo Team from 1959 to 1962, placing second and third in the European championships for those years.

An important element of the martial arts that Trammell teaches is the Yarawa technique. This is the twisting and bending of joints into unnatural positions that causes the attacker excruciating pain, paralysis, or even unconsciousness. "There is a natural way joints bend, then there's the unnatural — that's what we teach. In a course I designed for women I teach them to attack joints, pressure points, and nerves. Simply put, a woman can grab a man's thumbs and bring him to his knees using the minimum force and maximum efficiency of this restraining technique."

Trammell demonstrated the technique by asking his daughter to participate. He grabbed her at the wrists, she grabbed his thumb and bent it backwards. He quickly dropped her wrists. Trammell not only teaches at the YMCA in Downey but also maintains four Shoshin-Ryu schools.

He feels Ju-Jitsu has not only been a valuable defensive weapon for him, but a good flexibility exercise as well. "I think it is one of the primary reasons I never developed arthritis. I hear a lot of operators complain about arthritis afflicting their wrists."

In the past Trammell has held demonstrations of his techniques at Division 3. He would like to show

Maint. Manager Saves 2 Lives

Division 10 Maintenance Manager Milo Victoria went to the 41st National UMTA Management Seminar, facilitated by the faculty of Northeastern University and held in New England during September, anticipating, at most, to learn something new and exchange ideas. What he got was a lot more than he expected.

Walking back to his hotel along the ocean in Cohasset, Massachusetts, a rural suburb south of Boston, Victoria caught up with the new friends he had made at the conference. It was a little after 12 noon and the men, employees with the New York Transit Authority, had just finished up the morning session and were ready for lunch. As they walked along, Victoria heard a woman scream, "Oh, my God!"

"I looked up, and about 200 feet away I saw a woman looking into the water screaming. In the water I saw a small head bobbing up and down," said Victoria. It took him a few seconds to realize it was a child.

Immediately, Victoria threw his notebook down, jumped over and down the eight-foot retaining wall and ran toward the water. As he came closer, he tore off his jacket. Just when he approached the jagged, coastal rocks, the woman had jumped in the water and began screaming, "Help me, please!" Victoria jumped in the water, grabbed the child and pulled him to safety.

Victoria's friend Joe rushed up to him, taking the child, who was still conscious, and began squeezing the child's chest to expel the water from his lungs while Victoria returned to the water to rescue the child's mother. "I made sure she was okay and I reassured her that her child was fine. Joe carried the child back to the hotel," he said.

The child's father visited Victoria later that evening to thank him. "It was then I found out the mother did not know how to swim. He said his son, Michael, about three years old, was fine, but the mother was still a little shook-up," he said.

Victoria was presented with a special recognition award at the closing ceremony of the seminar. The owner of the hotel in which Victoria resided also extended to him a free weekend stay for two. "I was a little embarrassed by all the attention of the presentation. When you are doing it [rescuing], you don't think about what you are doing. I think anyone hearing that mother scream would have reacted in the same way."



Division 10 Maintenance Manager Milo Victoria saved the lives of a mother and child while attending an UMTA seminar in Massachusetts.

November Calendar

MEXICO: DAY OF THE DEAD. Nov 1-2. Observance begins during last days of October when "Dead Men's Bread" is sold in bakeries — round loaves, decorated with sugar skulls. Departed souls are remembered not with mourning but with spirit of friendliness and good humor. Cemeteries are visited and graves decorated.

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY. Nov 1. California mission founded Nov 1, 1776, collapsed during 1812 earthquake. The swallows of Capistrano nest in ruins of the old mission church, departing each year on Oct 23, and returning the following year on or near St. Joseph's Day (Mar 19).

DUNCE DAY. Nov 8. Purpose: To remember Duns Scotus, medieval scholastic (died Nov 8, 1308), whose concern with picayune technicalities brought the word 'DUNCE' into the language. Remember the day by not being a DUNCE, by not overemphasizing the picayune. Sponsor: The Tolerants, Box 36099, Houston, TX 77036.

HALLEY, EDMUND: BIRTHDAY. Nov 8. English astronomer and mathematician born at London, Nov 8, 1656. Astronomer Royal, 1721-1742. Died at Greenwich, Jan 14, 1742. He observed the great comet of 1682 (now named for him), first conceived its periodicity and wrote in his *Synopsis of Comet Astronomy*: "... I may venture to foretell that this Comet will return again in the year 1758." It did, and Edmund Halley's memory is kept alive by the once-every-generation appearance of Comet Halley. There have been 28 recorded appearances of this comet since 240 B.C. Average time between appearances is 76 years. Often regarded a harbinger of disaster, Halley's Comet was visible in 1985-1986.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR: BIRTHDAY. Nov 15. Anniversary of the founding, at Pittsburgh, PA, on Nov 15, 1881, of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada which, reorganized in 1886, became the American Federation of Labor.

THAILAND: ELEPHANT ROUND-UP AT SURIN. Nov 17. Elephant demonstrations in morning, elephant races, tug-of-war between 100 men and one elephant, etc. Observed since 1961 in November but exact date may vary. Special trains from Bangkok on previous day.

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE. Nov 25. New York. Info from: NY Conv & Visitors Bureau, 2 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019.

Division 3 Puts on Spread for Dual Celebration



The 16 of Septiembre and Barbecue Committee included, front row from left to right: Nellie Bernal, Margaret Sifuentes, Lila Estrada, Nellie Maynes, Tony Sandoval, and Enrique Velasco. Back row, from left to right: Carolyn Proctor, Mario Jaurequi, Rick Ortega, Joann Johnson, Kris Sharp, and Raul Alvarez.

Red, green, and white streamers symbolizing the proud and traditional colors of Mexico waved freely throughout the division. After all, freedom was one of the main reasons for celebrating.

Transportation Division 3 commemorated the 16th of September, Mexican independence day, with a fiesta of music, Mexican style cooking,

and barbecue. Actually, the division combined its annual barbecue with the celebration. Manager A.J. Taylor and the committee entertained approximately 400 guests. "Some employees worked long hours in preparation of the food and decorations, and obtaining the barrels to cook the barbecue. The other operators rewarded the committee by com-

ing and enjoying the good times and the food. The committee did a tremendous job and it showed," said Taylor. Committee members included: Joe White, Cynthia Ransom, Nellie Bernal, Nellie Maynes, Raul Alvarez, Carolyn Proctor, Enrique Velasco, Enrique Ortega, Kris Sharp, Joann Johnson, Lila Estrada, Mario Jaurequi, Virgil Wilson, Hillary Sheppard, James Gardner, Johnny Smith, and Tommy Lambert.

Because there were no funds available for division barbecues this year, the division resorted to good old-fashioned fundraising to come up with the money. There was a spaghetti dinner held, a delicious fish fry, and proceeds from their Cinco de Mayo celebration were also used. Many of

the committee members brought some of the homemade dishes that were served at the barbecue: Mexican and Salvadoran rice, beans, macaroni, green, and potato salads, salsa, ribs, links, and chicken. Bolillo (French bread) and pan dulce (Mexican sweet bread) were also served.

The division also held a raffle for a stereo and the piñatas that decorated the train room. Manager Taylor was especially grateful to his versatile staff who not only worked their runs but were able to help without effecting any service cancellations. Committee member Lila Estrada expressed her feelings: "Everyone should have independence no matter what country they are from. I'm happy to celebrate anyone's independence."



Division 3 Barbecue Cooks were, front row, left to right: James Gardner and Tommy Lambert. Back row, left to right: Hillary Sheppard, Johnny Smith, and Virgil Wilson.

After 29 Years Lymuel Retires

Mechanic A Leon Lymuel has finished the final chapter of a 29-year story. His retirement was celebrated on September 25, with over 75 friends, well wishers, and relatives.

Lymuel began with the District in September of 1957 as a Utility. He later promoted to Mechanic C and then on up through the ranks to Mechanic A Body Repair. Division 7 Maintenance Manager Ted Brewin said that he hates to see Leon go because it will be a long time before he sees another employee of his character. Brewin further stated, "I'm sorry that age prohibited him from working any longer. He's going to be missed for his expertise and missed by his fellow co-workers. He was very well liked. He always had a kind word for everyone, and was never judged harshly."

Lymuel's attendance and service to the District were beyond reproach.

Accompanied by his wife Monnie, sister Margaret, and many other family members, Leon listened joyfully as words of pride, admiration, and respect were bestowed.

ATU representative Lyle Fulks presented Leon with its membership jacket, cap, and pin. On behalf of the division, Leon was given a trolling motor for his fishing boat. Monnie says that she and Leon have no immediate plans, but will enjoy retirement and travel. Leon intends to do more fishing. He was also given personal mementos by co-workers reflecting on District times.

"I've had wonderful days at the RTD," says Leon. "It's just that I don't want to work after 63 years."

Abernethy Exits With 20 Years



Communications Representative James Abernethy was given his final farewell folderol at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank on September 25. In the photograph above James is sitting between his wife Rosemary, and Marketing Supervisor Mike Barnes.

Beginning with a program entitled "Abernethy's Creatively Confusing Career," the humorous tenor of James Abernethy's retirement party at the Castaway Restaurant on September 25, was set.

Jim Abernethy was honored by his department and friends for his 20 years of dedication to the District. Promotions Manager Alice Tolbert-Wiggins acted as mistress of ceremonies for the event.

Director of Marketing and Communications Tony Fortuno traced Jim's career — a rise from Telephone Information Operator to the Manager of Pre-Paid Sales up to his last assignment as Communications Representative.

"Jim has given his best to the Marketing Department and to the RTD. I will miss him," said Fortuno.

The next event on the program called for a presentation of mementos. Appropriate as ever, Marketing Supervisor Mike Barnes gave Jim a senior citizen's bus pass with his pre-employment picture affixed to it, two passes for Metro Rail, a genuine set of 1984 Olympic tokens, and the 1984 Olympic dollar prestige set.

Alice Tolbert-Wiggins presented Jim with items designed to encourage an adult to enjoy his retirement as well as a second childhood - bubble gum, a jump rope, and t-shirts.



Mechanic A Leon Lymuel (far right) celebrates his impending retirement at a Division 7 party. With him are his wife Monnie, and Maintenance Manager Ted Brewin.



RTD Goes to the Movies

Our Rating System

- ***** —Top of the line; a once-in-a-lifetime movie
 - **** —Excellent; worth paying full price for
 - *** —Average; does what it set out to do—use discount tickets
 - ** —Okay; con someone else into paying or wait for the videotape
 - * —A waste of time and celluloid
- BOMB**—*Tarzan the Ape Man*, starring Bo Derek and Miles O'Keefe (What acting?)

Blue Velvet - *

The movie business thrives on controversy. Controversy means audiences, and audiences mean money. David Lynch's *Blue Velvet* is, without a doubt, the most controversial film of the year. There are those who hail it as a masterpiece, a searing look at the innermost darkness of a man's soul, while others feel that it's a piece of trash. I happen to fall into the latter category.

As far as plot, it concerns a young man who comes home from college when his father has a stroke, and becomes involved in a mystery concerning a severed ear that he finds in a field and a web of corruption that involves a nightclub singer, a crooked cop, and a psychopath. The psychopath is holding the singer's husband and child captive so he can receive sexual favors from the singer. How the crooked cop is involved is never made clear, though drug smuggling is hinted at. Also, how or why the singer's husband and child were kidnapped is never made clear. I don't mind not knowing the how, but I resent not knowing the why. This is the shaky frame on which Lynch hangs a patchwork of violence, supposed erotica, and ambiguous statements that are supposed to have some meaning for the audience and are therefore hammered home repeatedly. It's the type of film a "serious" film student would make if he had the

budget, more caught up in the moral that he's trying to tell the audience rather than the tale which gives the moral meaning. The performances are wooden, with Kyle MacLachlan, Isabella Rossellini, Laura Dern, and Dennis Hopper mouthing the words that Lynch wrote. A word of warning: This film is rated "R" because it contains scenes of explicit violence, sexual and otherwise. Unless you're a fan of David Lynch's work, I would avoid this one.

Crocodile Dundee - ***

This is a rather fun piece of froth, starring Paul Hogan, who's best known for his commercials where he invites Americans to "Come down under and say 'g'day.'" Using one of the oldest tricks in the book, he's managed to turn out a nice little piece of entertainment. A lovely female reporter (played by Linda Kozlowski) heads down under to do a piece on a man who supposedly had his leg bitten off by a crocodile and managed to crawl back to civilization. Of course, the story gets larger each time it's told, and it turns out that it's actually not more than a scratch. Dundee is part con-man and part what his partner claims him to be, comfortable in the wilds of Australia, not really caring what goes on in the outside world. He takes the reporter on a safari, and she, in turn, takes him back to New York, to see how this "wild man" reacts to civilization. Hogan plays the same type of guy you see on TV, and says "g'day" on a number of occasions. Kozlowski's reporter works, and it's pleasant to see that she's capable, not running from danger. The outcome is never in doubt, and there are plenty of laughs to keep you entertained.

The Name of the Rose - **1/2

Set toward the end of the Dark Ages, when almost all knowledge was suspect, and reading a banned book could cost you your life, *The Name of the Rose* concerns a series of murders in a Benedictine monastery. William of Baskerville, a Franciscan monk played by Sean Connery, has come to the monastery to attend a debate, and

is asked to assist in solving the murders. William has some experience in this type of investigation, but others wish the motive for the crime hidden forever. Knowledge and faith are the keys here, and how evil both of those can be when twisted.

Assisting William in his investigation is Adso, the young novice who is also the narrator for the story. Christian Slater captures the innocence of a young boy bound to a religious life almost perfectly. It could have easily been a thankless part, a foil for Connery's lines, but Slater brings interest to the role, providing the proper balance of youth to age. F. Murray Abraham, on the other hand, has a disappointingly small role as the Grand Inquisitor, William's old nemesis. He's good, and I wish we could have met him a little earlier in the story. Although the story could do with a little tightening, *Name of the Rose* is a fascinating film with a chillingly apt lesson for these times.

Captain EO - ***

Playing only at Disneyland and Disney World, *Captain EO* is essentially a

long rock video, as EO, played by Michael Jackson, sets out to deliver song and color to a black-and-white world, accompanied by his crew, all in 3-D. The 3-D system, one of the main points of interest, is rather spectacular, good not only for the tricks of throwing things into the audience, but for adding a sense of depth in most of the sequences. This works especially well when the dancing starts, giving you the impression more of a live performance than film. What we're seeing here might actually be the start of a new form of moving-making, if they're able to perfect it to a point where the costs can be brought down.


Dick Shawn has a short but funny bit as EO's superior, and Angelica Huston chews the scenery as the Supreme Leader whom EO must confront. Michael Jackson's singing and dancing are exciting, but he fails to come alive until the music starts, and is easily upstaged by those around him until that point. I wouldn't run down to Disneyland just to see this, but it does provide a good excuse to go.

—Carolyn Kinkead

A Car Buff's Beauty



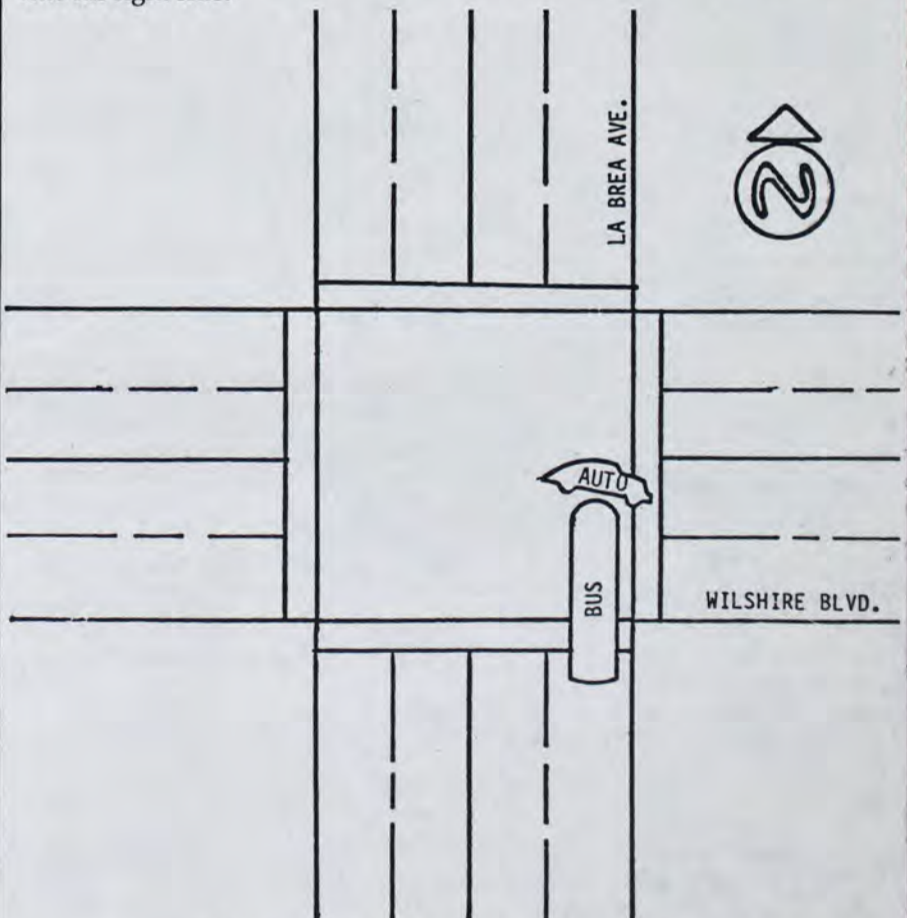
General Manager John A. Dyer and a fellow car buff take a spin in his newly restored Triumph TR4A, 1967 model. Dyer completely rebuilt the automobile in a period of two years after assembling all the parts. Dyer painted the antique car red. He has restored other such models. Because the cars are miniatures, he claims he can fit two in a one-car garage.



You Be the Judge

Operator's Statement

I was out of service operating in the curb lane northbound on La Brea Avenue moving at approximately 25 miles per hour. As I was about 35 feet from the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and the signal was green, a southbound automobile attempted to make a left turn in front of the bus causing me to run into his right side.



Answer:

Even though the automobile made an illegal left turn, this accident was judged preventable for two reasons: 1) As a professional driver the bus operator should have had a foot over the brake pedal as the bus approached the intersection. This practice would have reduced the stopping distance by 17 feet, probably preventing the accident; 2) The operator should have anticipated that by being in the curb lane the motorist could have thought that the bus was going to stop at Wilshire to pick up or discharge passengers. Even though the bus was not in service, automobile drivers are not always aware of what the headsign means. Often they cannot see the sign.

COMMENDATIONS; SCHEDULE CHANGES

COMMENDATIONS

Division 1

Cousins, Charles D.
Jones, Ruby L.

Division 3

Davis, Odessa M.
Esquivel, Michael
Piche, Richard M.
Proctor, Carolyn A.
Teran, John R.
Young, Debra J.

Division 5

Gladden, Emmanuel
Hooker, Norma L.
Rafah, Bruce S.
Thomas, Thelma

Division 6

Besnecker, T.
Jones, John L.
Wright, Richard L.

Division 7

Craig, Tyrone L.
Currie, Lorne
Edwards, John E.
Matthews, T.G.
Oliver, Joe F.

Division 8

Crockett, Cheryl C.
Sassano, Alfred
White, Edmond L.

Division 9

Garcia, Ernest V.
Westfall, Barry W.

Division 10

Anaya, Guillermo A.
Christian, Brian
Ethridge, Ben R.
Menchaca, Ralph
Shorters, Jimmie
Sheldon, Arthur A.
Zimmer, Jesse

Division 12

Evans, Arnold E.
Rivera, Lorenzo A.

Division 15

Banket, Wanda C.
Ford, Virginia F.
Lawson, Harold M.
McGee, Lance L.
Navarro, Christopher J.
Selvick, Ronald R.
Sundling, Phillip G.
Swinton, David
Willis, Harry E.

Division 16

Alegria, Hector
Pope, Adell
Saenz, Adolph M.

Division 18

Brown, Claude H.
Charles, Paul
Jackson, Fred D.
Lay, Eldora B.
Ramirez, Fred S.
Roberts, Clifton E.
Sanders, Leon I.

IN MEMORIAM

Sympathy is expressed to the families and friends of employees or retirees who passed away.

Day, Jeanne, began with the District November 8, 1950, retired as a Secretary III, passed away June 29, 1986.

Waldon, Raymond, began with the District as an Operator, passed away September 22, 1986.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Acosta, Ramon C., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Anaya, Jaime R., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Ball, Anna T., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Bennett, William R., from Supervisor of Passenger and Lease Services to Vehicle Operations Manager.

Berger, Harry, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Billups, Douglas C., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Bishop, Donald L., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Bjornsen, Neil P., from Acting Equipment Maintenance Supervisor to Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.

Blackburn, Joseph E., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Branch, Troi L., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Bryant, Michelle L., from Kardex Clerk to Word Processor.

Bunag, Nicky M., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Callahan, Richard G., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Camp, Zina M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Carter, Chauncey M., from Secretary to Senior Secretary.

Cash, C.H., from Senior Attendant to Mechanic C.

Coates, Delos F., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Davis, Lois C., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Diaz, Michael, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Dinh, Phung V., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Dryden, Daniel B., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Epps, Roy A., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Flonta, Daniel, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Flores, Ramiro, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Foley, John C., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Foster, Marla R., from Relief Stock Clerk to Equipment Records Specialist.

Galindo, Edward A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Gates, Alice V., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Glenn, Bob S., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Gwin, Richard W., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Hammond, Marvin C., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Haynes, Marion S., from Stock Clerk to Storekeeper.

Hearn, Steve, from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Hernandez, Ernest, from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Herras, Salvador H., from Accountant to Acting Senior Accountant.

Hirsch, Mitchell W., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor (Vehicle Operations).

Houze, Casaundra R., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Laguna, Brenda E., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Le Gras, Mark A., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Leone, Linda M., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Lerit, Felix B., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Lindsey, Johnny R., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Lucas, Diane, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Mangilit, Manuel, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Martinez, Jose P., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

McLemore, Rhonda S., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Mena-Munoz, Marcos, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Mirza, Muhammad I., from Systems Electronic Communications Technician to Electronic Maintenance Supervisor I.

Nagler, Ellen S., from Acting Senior Training Coordinator to Senior Training Coordinator.

Nguyen, Dinh V., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Nguyen, Khanh V., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Nguyen Tuan T., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Noss, James R., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Ouellette, Richard L., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Owens, Jack L., from Assistant Division Transportation Manager to Acting Division Transportation Manager.

Padilla, Arnold S., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Parchman, Ila J., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Peters, James, from Property Maintainer B to Millwright.

Pham, Hiep T., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Reever, Dennis K., from Power Yard Sweeper Leader to Property Maintainer A.

Ridgeway, Pearlene, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Rodriguez, Mark, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Roland, John D., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Romo, Jose G., from Transit Operators Supervisor to Senior Transit

Operations Supervisor.

Ross, Odell, from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Saavedra, Jesus E., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Saldana, Frank C., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Sanchez, Thomas S., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Sanson, David H., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Santos, Virgil M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Schlegel, Larry L., from Budget Manager to Acting Director of Management-Budget.

Shelton, Octavia L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Smith, Shirley L., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Starks, Gary J., from Service Attendant to Service Attendant Leader.

Strong, Billie R., from Power Yard Sweeper to Power Yard Sweeper Leader.

Sunga, Josephine S., from Secretary to Senior Secretary.

Thomas, Armando, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Tivis, Elisha E., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Uresti, G.J., from Transit Operations Supervisor to Acting Supervisor of Passenger and Lease Services.

Valdez, Jerry A., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Warren, Bernard J., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Wilson, Curtis D., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Williams, Neal E., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Worten, Donald M., from Operator/Extra Transit Operations Supervisor to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Wynn, Thomas R., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Yoshimoto, Wayne H., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

BIRTHS

Born to Operators Nathaniel and Debra Ruffin, a son, Starreon, weighing 7 pounds on September 20, 1986 at 6:24 p.m. in the Brotman Medical Center.

SHIFTING GEARS

Abernethy, James, began with the District as a Telephone Information Operator September 19, 1966, retired September 19, 1986 as a Communications Representative.

Beal, William, began with the District as an Operator July 1, 1961, retired as a Schedule Maker II September 2, 1986.

Cobb, Eugene, began with the District June 3, 1947, retired as a Storekeeper September 3, 1986.

Coyner, Leonard, an Operator since June 13, 1970, retired August 1, 1986.

Davis, Richard, an Operator since July 25, 1960, retired August 20, 1986.

Continued on page 15

& MORE COMMENDATIONS

WEDDING



Division 7 Operator Lamar Barry wed Mayuree Radcliffe on September 27, at 3:30 p.m. The ceremony was held in the Church of Christ on North Rossmore Avenue in Hollywood followed by a reception at the Century Plaza Hotel. The couple has made their home in Hollywood.

South Park's Top Employee



Mechanic A Leadperson Thomas Hummel, Jr. was chosen the Employee of the Month for July at South Park Shops. Hummel works on the Engine Line and has been at South Park for nine years. According to his supervisors, he has outstanding leadership abilities. He is responsible for having devised a rotation system whereby the employees under his direction are cross-trained at various stations making his section a smooth-flowing operation.

Fac. Maint. Top Employee



General Clerk II Cecilia Haney of Vernon Yard was selected as the Facilities Maintenance Employee of the Month for August. Cecilia was especially commended on her exceptional work record, cheerful attitude, and willingness to assume extra duties during an extended period when the department was short of clerical personnel. The sweepstakes winner for August was Electrician Louis Campos of Vernon Yard. Campos received a \$25 cash prize.

SHIFTING GEARS

Continued from page 14

Goings, Charles, an Operator since June 21, 1976, retired August 22, 1986.

Heinz, Dwight, an Operator since August 15, 1960, retired August 30, 1986.

Hubert, Louis, began with the District as an Operator August 17, 1956, retired as a Senior Transit Operations Supervisor August 31, 1986.

Kidwell, Robert, an Operator since September 11, 1971, retired June 11, 1986.

Lee, Eugene, began with the District July 26, 1956, retired as a Transit Police Investigator September 4, 1986.

McCullough, James, began with the District as a Clerk August 29, 1942, retired as a Division Transportation Manager August 30, 1986.

Omo, Luden K., an Operator since June 28, 1969, retired August 8, 1986.

Turner, James, an Operator since December 8, 1972, retired June 26, 1985.

Letter From The Editor

At any point within the last six months, just when you thought things couldn't get much worse, somehow it managed to happen. Accidents, safety procedures, drug policies, attendance, valid drivers' licenses — the hits just keep coming. Oops, I didn't mean that the way it sounds. Being so severely scrutinized by the press has sent us scrambling on the defensive, girding ourselves for the next attack, stiffening with paranoia, fastening blame here, there, and looking for the quick fix. In no way am I taking a "here's me above the fray" view of this. Certainly the community makes no distinction concerning us RTD employees.

It has not been a pleasant way to live. And while I know that this too shall pass, I can't help but wonder — what's the point of it all? What will we learn from this? It can't simply be that as a public agency the RTD is good grist for the media mill on a slow news day. My hope is that from this experience the RTD will be the better for it. I'd like to believe that in their transparently cynical way, the *Herald-Examiner* will have done us a favor by forcing us to look at ourselves and how we deliver service. Although they have helped stimulate crisis upon crisis for us, they have also helped to restore to us a sense of community. Under attack from the outside, we have come closer inside. And that's good. I see and hear operators and others pulling together, rallying each other, and expressing concern over a co-worker who may have a drug problem. People who really need help in this company now have the best opportunity to get that help. And that's good!

Classes are being offered to all District employees at various times and in convenient locations. The information could help you or someone you care about.

If you think you may be an alcoholic or a drug abuser attend these classes to get the information you need to help yourself. If you think you are not an alcoholic or drug abuser but have a problem with attendance and your life feels unmanageable attend these classes. If you are not sure, try answering the 20 questions that follow. These questions are used by Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, MD, to determine whether or not a patient is an alcoholic or a drug addict.

ARE YOU AN ALCOHOLIC OR A DRUG ABUSER?

To answer this question ask yourself the following questions and answer them as honestly as you can.

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you lose time from work due to drinking or drug use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Is drinking and/or drug use making your home life unhappy? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you drink or use drugs because you are shy with other people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is drinking or using drugs affecting your reputation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Have you ever felt remorse after drinking or using drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Have you gotten into financial difficulties as a result of drinking or using drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you turn to lower companions and an inferior environment when drinking or using drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Does your drinking or using drugs make you careless of your family's welfare? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Has your ambition decreased since drinking or using drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Do you crave a drink, a pill, a joint, a snort, etc. at a definite time daily? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11. Do you want a drink or drug the next morning? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Does drinking or using drugs cause you to have difficulty in sleeping? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Has your efficiency decreased since drinking or using? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Is drinking or using jeopardizing your job? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Do you drink or use drugs to escape from worries or trouble? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Do you drink or use drugs alone? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Have you ever had a complete memory loss as a result of drinking or using? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Has your physician ever treated you for drinking or using drugs or have you ever been hospitalized or institutionalized for drinking or using drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Do you drink or use drugs to build up your self-confidence? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Do you drive even though you have been drinking or using drugs but feel certain you are in complete control of yourself? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you have answered YES to any one of the questions, there is a definite warning that you may be an alcoholic or an addict.

If you have answered YES to any two, the chances are that you are an alcoholic or an addict.

If you have answered YES to three or more, you are definitely an alcoholic or an addict.

If you or someone you know has a problem with drugs and/or alcohol get the help you or they need today. Life is so very rich but also short. It is a shame to waste what precious little time we have being loaded and miss all the riches. The RTD has an Employee Assistance Program to help

you with any dependency problem or any type of personal problems you may have. You can reach the EAP at 1-800-221-0942 or (714) 978-7915. If you do not want to use the Employee Assistance Program; there are many agencies or programs that can be of help to you and are free. These programs include Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or Cocaine Anonymous.

If you have problems with living other than drug abuse or alcoholism such as child or spousal abuse, overeating, or are related to an alcoholic, there are cost-free support groups available to you as well. These programs are known as Parents Anonymous, Overeater's Anonymous, Alanon, Alateen, and Adult Children of Alcoholics. To get more information about these groups and their meeting times call the Central Office at (213) 387-8316.

People who know me well know that my favorite stories or films almost always include the theme of redemption. It's a powerful draw for me. A case in point: a few years ago I saw the film *Tender Mercies* starring Robert Duvall. In it, Duvall plays a country-western singer gone to ruin by his drinking. He reaches his bottom in a small, threadbare roadside motel in East Texas. With the support of the motel owner and her young son he manages to stay sober and to rebuild his life. It is a simple story but it is also a miracle story. It is the kind of story that happens every day for those who want it badly enough. I hope I'm around long enough to be able to say that the *Herald-Examiner* did indeed work the tender mercies of an author even higher than the County Board of Supervisors in the most mysterious way.

HEADWAY



Groundbreaking
September 29, 1986



Happy Thanksgiving!

Employee Recreation News

NOVEMBER

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------|---|
| 8 | UCLA - Stanford Football (Homecoming) \$8.00 | 12-14 | Las Vegas - The Mint Hotel \$78.00 per person |
| 9 | Lilly Tomlin "In Search of Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe" \$35.00 | 12 | CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE - Proud Bird Restaurant \$22.50 per person |
| 13 | James A. Doolittle Theatre, 2:30 | 18-19 | Fine Arts Sale - Headquarters Building cafeteria |
| 14 | David Sanborn - Universal Amphitheatre \$17.50 | 2 | Andy Williams Christmas Show - Universal \$23.50 |
| 14 | All Star Jazz Explosion II - Rare Silk, Special EFX, Skywalk - Universal \$12.00 | | Anita Baker - Beverly Theatre \$20.00 |
| 15 | Chaka Kahn - Universal \$17.50 | 28 | Al Jarreau - Universal \$26.00 |
| 16 | CATS - Schubert 2:30 p.m. \$40 tickets for \$25 | | |
| 22 | UCLA vs USC Football \$22.00 | | |
| 23 | Diary of Black Men - Beverly Theatre \$18.00 | | |
| 26 | Chicago - Universal Amphitheatre \$21.00 | | |

DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 5 | Ashford and Simpson - Universal - Before concert party! \$15.00 | | |
| | | | KINGS HOCKEY Senate Seats \$18.50 includes parking, Colonnade seating \$9.50 |
| | | | LAKERS BASKETBALL Senate Seats \$30.00 includes parking, Colonnade seating \$7.50 and \$9.50 |

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HEADWAY

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