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Cover Story

Labor and Management Join Forces to Improve Affairs

The District reached agreement with leaders of the United Transportation Union (UTU) to embark on an aggressive campaign to curb absenteeism and improve scheduling and overall working conditions for bus operators.

District managers and UTU officials held a breakfast kickoff meeting on February 28 at the Headquarters Building to work out details and put the plan into action. General Manager John A. Dyer and UTU General Chairman Earl Clark along with Acting Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey attended that session with nearly 200 management personnel and operators.

"This agreement is quite a breakthrough and represents a new order in working relationships," said Dyer. "The plan is broad in scope. On the one hand, we need to put a stop to attendance abuse, which is draining critical resources from bus operations. We also must help the public recognize that the vast majority of our operators are doing an outstanding job. Moreover, we are anxious to improve their working conditions by addressing such concerns as scheduling and overtime requirements, which may have contributed to attendance problems."

In addressing the operators, Dyer asked them to let go of preconceived notions. "We want an open process, an interaction different from



Operators, managers, and labor leaders break bread on February 28 as they begin forming joint labor/management committees that aim to combat absenteeism, and improve scheduling and working conditions for operators.

any we've ever had. We've never had a joint labor-management team before. I don't think it's ever happened in North America. We are going to make a difference." Dyer said that this new structure would help the District get through the year with some documented savings. He promised that for every dollar saved the District is prepared to put it back into the divisions for improvements and services.

UTU General Chairman Earl

Clark said he had come to break bread with the RTD in order to talk about ways to create a better image of operators and improve attendance. "Operators have an obligation to the taxpayers, to the elderly, the handicapped, and all those who are transit dependent. We aren't going to overturn all the bad things overnight but we can give the operators something to work with. I feel very optimistic. I believe good will come out of it. This

move creates a trust between union and management that has not existed on this property before. When we sit down at the bargaining table in 1988, it will be with a much better image than we have today," said Clark.

The breakfast meeting was the first step toward addressing these issues and proposing positive solutions for resolving them through the formation of a labor/management policy committee. The effort was reinforced at each of the 12 operating divisions beginning March 16 when the first meetings were held at Divisions 1, 18, and 10. Subsequent meetings were held at Divisions 3, 16, and 8 on March 17; Divisions 5, 15, and 9 on March 18; and at Divisions 6, 12, and 7 on March 19. Local committees made up of five UTU members and five members representative of the Planning Department, Schedules Department, and Transportation Department, were facilitated by the respective division manager and assistant manager with each member having an equal voice and equal time.

Acting Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey said the purpose of the committees was to improve the levels of service, improve attendance, and develop incentives that work. Speaking to the operators, Ms. Bailey said, "There are people on these committees who are very outspoken. I

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Fuentes, Former UMTA Counsel, Assumes Inspector General Role

A former federal transportation official was selected to head up RTD's newly created office of inspector general, effective March 2.

Ernesto V. Fuentes, 39, until recently, the San Francisco regional counsel for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), was named to the \$75,000 a year post on a 2-year contract following the approval of the RTD Board of Directors. He was recruited as part of a nationwide search to fill the position created by the RTD Board last September. He will assume supervision of a staff of 9 contract auditors with a start up budget of \$250,000 to add the new operations auditing and investigating functions.

"I see this job as a challenge to help RTD clean up and move forward," said the new inspector general. "The RTD is in a period of considerable growth; in short, this is a challenge I welcome," said Fuentes.

As inspector general, Fuentes will be responsible for overseeing internal and external audits and investigations regarding fraud, waste, and abuse within RTD operations and contracts. He will report both to the RTD Board of Directors and to General

Manager John A. Dyer.

"Ernie Fuentes brings 15 years investigating, auditing and contracting experience to the RTD, including extensive experience conducting investigations and program audits for Continued on page 3



Former federal transportation official Ernesto V. Fuentes was appointed the first RTD Inspector General. He assumed his duties on March 2.

Employees Join Over 14,000 in Rite of Spring Marathon

In the early morning hours of March 1, among over 14,000 people, a number of RTD employees were looking for their starting blocks at the Coliseum to get in place for the second Los Angeles Marathon.

Many of the 1987 District runners had participated last year and were old hands at this big-city race of 26.2 miles. Other employees like Martha Fuentes were pumped up with adrenalin and last-minute training for their first marathon. Martha, a messenger clerk for the District at the Headquarters Building, only began running a year ago. "Roy Starks [Division 7 manager] got me started. He showed me how to run," said Martha.

Martha completed the marathon in 3 hours, 20 minutes. "If I hadn't had leg cramps I think I could have made it in two hours,"she said.

During the year, Martha's running regimen consisted of daily five-mile runs. Her personal best is a six-minute mile. A week before the race she entered into serious training under the supervision of a coach provided by her team sponsor, *Channel* 52. During the hard training, Martha



The streets were crowded with marathon runners on March 1. Among those running were a number of RTD employees.

ran 19 miles a day—12 miles in the morning and 7 miles in the evening. And, weekends were not made for a runner's rest, she ran 14 miles on Sat-

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Board Acts to Defer Benefit Assessment Tax Until 1992

RTD Board President Jan Hall proposed, on February 26 to the RTD Board's approval, that benefit assessment payment collections in downtown Los Angeles be delayed until after the subway system begins operation in 1992.

"The District is taking the initiative in addressing concerns raised by downtown property owners who claim they may suffer a financial hardship during Metro Rail construction and do not expect to realize tangible benefits until after the subway opens in five years," Hall said.

"We recognize the pivotal role the private sector has played in making Metro Rail a reality," Hall added. "This effort demonstrates the District's appreciation and support for that contribution."

"We're acting now because criticism of the benefit assessment program mounted only after the assessments appeared for the first time on property tax bills last December," Hall noted. Under the plan, assessments will still be collected for 1986 but deferred until December 10, 1992.

"It's too late to change the 1986 tax bills but with this plan landowners have five years to exercise their various options including selling or developing their property," Hall said. "Metro Rail is expected to spur development downtown, which, in turn, should expand the tax base in the next

several years so that assessments would be shared by more property owners."

RTD's outside financial advisor, Siedler Fitzgerald Public Finance, advised that it is possible to defer collection until calendar year 1992 although more interest cost will be generated because of that action. This is because RTD will borrow money in the interim to pay back the interest on bonds it plans to sell beginning next September to raise \$130.3 million in private sector contributions toward construction of Metro Rail's inițial downtown subway segment.

It is estimated that an additional \$44 million must be generated from assessments to defray this expense.

The private sector is expected to pay 11 percent of the approximately \$1.25 billion cost of building the first 4.4 mile subway segment between Union Station and Wilshire and Alvarado. Two benefit assessment districts have been established around the first five Metro Rail stations to generate funds to pay back the bonds RTD will sell to raise this capital up front during the construction period, which is now underway.

A single benefit assessment district encompasses a half-mile walking distance around the first four downtown stations. The second district envelops the Wilshire and Alvarado station within a one-third mile walk-



RTD President Jan Hall announces a proposal to delay Benefit Assessment taxes on downtown merchants until 1992 at a press conference held February 18. With her are Chris Stewart (center), president of the Central City Association, who told reporters the merchants would be "more willing to pay for Metro Rail as they ride on it," and former RTD Treasurer Joe Scatchard.

ing distance.

Owners of some 2,000 parcels of office, commercial, retail, and hotel and motel property were assessed last year. All residential property except for hotels and motels are exempt as well as parcels owned and operated by charitable nonprofit organizations and public land in public use.

A flat rate is applied to the square footage of assessable property improvements or the land, itself,

whichever is greater in size. The initial assessment per square foot in 1986 was 30 cents. It is estimated that a 31 cent rate would apply in 1992 if the assessments are deferred. This rate could be lowered if more development occurs in the assessment districts, thereby expanding the tax base.

The assessments would continue until the year 2008 when all bonds will be redeemed.

Congiardo Wins Trip to Hawaii



Division 1 Operator Eric Congiardo won a two-week trip for two to Hawaii through a drawing held at the Credit Union on January 15. From left to right: Credit Union Manager Hyla Howard, Credit Union Board Vice-President James L. Duke, and Operator Congiardo.

Division I Operator Eric Congiardo won a two-week trip for two to Hawaii in a drawing held by the Credit Union as a promotion to attract new shareholders on January 15.

"I really appreciate this. For the credit union to incur this kind of expense—I couldn't have afforded it otherwise. It's like winning the lottery. It hasn't sunk in yet. I've never been to Hawaii," he said. In addition to the trip, Eric received \$500 for expenses. Eric plans to visit retired Operator Matthew Saniga who lives in Hawaii while on his vacation.

As of this writing Eric is still looking for someone to accompany him. He has until January 15, 1988 to use the tickets. "Any woman interested in a long-term commitment can call me. The trip to Hawaii will just be a side benefit," Eric said.

Eric resides in Fountain Valley and has worked eight years for the District. He is the son of Dorcas Rome, a long-term driver for the District, who passed away in July. "They used to call my mother 'Little Pete.' She got me started at the District and saving money at the credit union. They call me 'Repeat.'

Eric is a member of the Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa where he regularly attends Bible study classes. One of his hobbies includes flying high-performance, radio-controlled model airplanes. He is a vegetarian and said he enjoys cooking and doesn't mind doing the dishes. Any women interested in getting to know Eric a little better and perhaps accompanying him to Hawaii are encouraged to call him at (714) 839-1754 or send your resume in care of the *Headway*. "If I can save this trip to go on my honeymoon, I think that would be great," said Fric

ESP Awards \$1,000 to Employees for Cost-Saving Suggestions



Employee Suggestion Awards were presented by Director of Personnel Gayel A. Pitchford at the February 26 Board of Directors' Meeting. Both employees were awarded with \$1000. Front row, from left to right: RTD Board President Jan Hall, Division 18 Body Shop Leadman Orlando Dotta, South Park Mechanic A Harry Dourian, and Director of Personnel Gayel A. Pitchford. Back row, from left to right: General Manager John A. Dyer, Division 18 Maintenance Manager Theral Golden and South Park Refurbish Manager Ted Desy.

Two mechanics developed cost-saving ideas that earned them the top monetary award from the Employee Suggestion Program at the February 26 Board of Directors' Meeting.

Director of Personnel Gayel A. Pitchford presented checks and certificates to these employees interested in improving District operations.

The first award for \$1,000 went to Body Shop Leadman Orlando Dotta from Division 18. Dotta suggested that the tail pipe on the RTS coaches be extended to enable the hot exhaust to be emitted past the rear bumper rather than on it. This modification will save the District approximately \$22,230 annually by eliminating the need to replace rear bumpers that are damaged due to the exhaust from the tail pipe.

Also receiving \$1,000 was Mechanic A Harry Dourian from the System Shop at South Park. Dourian designed a tool for assembling the oil pressure control valve used on Detroit engines. Use of this tool will save the District approximately \$13,500 annually by reducing the amount of time needed to assemble these valves and minimizing the number of valves damaged through manual assembly.

Labor, Management: Join Forces to Improve Absenteeism and Working Conditions

Continued from page 1

believe in you. I believe you will take charge, be productive, and meet these goals. We know that when you take a beating out there, so do we." Ms. Bailey is hopeful that the committee will develop a plan to improve the quality of life for operators which in turn would improve the operators' attendance. "We are not placing you in a role of disciplining your fellow operators. We want you to work with your peers in harmony. How well will you work with your fellow workers regarding attendance problems without embarrassing them? You will take your great personalities and your interpersonal skills to reach these operators."

In response to the managers a number of operators responded, detailing their frustrations with tight schedules, overcrowded buses, and irate passengers. One operator commented: "When I get up in the morning I say this simple prayer: 'God,

please give me a bus that gets away from the corner and enough time at the end of the line to eat a sandwich and go to the bathroom.' Invariably, I get a bus that doesn't do more than 20 miles an hour and no time to stop at the end. We make the money for this company, we do the PR, and we take all the c--p." Other operators blamed the frustrating lack of communication between employees and management as the cause of operator absenteeism. However, most operators appeared willing to suspend judgment and join with management in the venture. Local Chairman Stephen Smith said, "In the beginning, I was opposed to this plan. But, now I believe it can work. I'd like to challenge all the other locals in this effort. I bet we will be the

Assistant General Manager for Operations Robert Korach encouraged the operators to listen and to share their problems so that manage-



Acting Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey explains the purpose of the joint labor/management committees at a kickoff breakfast held in the Headquarters Building cafeteria on February 28.

ment would be aware of them and could offer resolutions. He brought good news — the first shipment of 90 Neoplan buses will be arriving on the property within the next month.

In concluding the discussion, Dyer told the employees and union officers that this joint venture is a golden opportunity to do what needs to be done in Los Angeles. "We've got to work at unifying ourselves. This is the first step. Everyone has the right to his or her opinion but everyone has a responsibility to be informed, to participate, and to move forward. I am convinced that when we look back on this a year or two from now, we will say we did things we never thought we could."

The general manager's action plan for revamping the District's performance on a variety of fronts, calls for a five percent reduction in absenteeism within six months. This would generate an estimated \$540,000 savings during this period and \$1,080,000 in the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

LA Marathon: Employees Run

Continued from page 1 urdays.

While in training, she kept to a simple diet of granola, carrot juice, and either fish or chicken for dinner.

When she finished the race, she said she felt great, elated. "I feel very satisfied with myself," she said. Martha will run the marathon next year and has every intention of improving her time. "It can be done. Anyone can run and finish. It's all in your mind." she said.



Messenger Clerk Martha Fuentes finished her first marathon in a remarkable 3 hours and 20 minutes.

Division 7 Operator Carter Norwood would probably disagree with Martha. He completed the marathon in 3 hours, 40 minutes. "This year was harder for me than last year. The weather had something to do with it. That temperature really sapped me," said Norwood. He had trained to come in at 3 hours, however, along with the weather, the change in the course from last year added to his difficulty. The day after the race Norwood commented, I can't begin to tell you what I feel like today. I've got blisters on each toe. . ." Norwood was on his way to a shiatsu massage when last continued on page 5



Operator David Jordan shows his write-ups at the February 28 joint labor/management breakfast and tells the audience, "Get the spotters off me and let me do my job. I want this program to work. I want to support management."

Fuentes: Former UMTA Official Assumes Inspector General Post

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the U.S. Departments of Justice and Transportation," RTD Board President Ian Hall said.

"He is especially knowledgeable in the area of federal contract compliance, an asset that will help the District improve its auditing functions and satisfy federal procurement rules and regulations," Hall noted. "Mr. Fuentes has worked day-to-day with the federal inspector general's office, and he is a recognized expert on federal regulations relating to UMTA grants and local agencies."

General Manager Dyer termed Fuentes as "a real pro in the field of transportation. He comes to this agency with an independence from local activities and issues."

While it is too soon for Fuentes to have established a concrete agenda, he is clear that he wants to make RTD management more efficient, more effective, and more economic.

In the meantime, Fuentes will be preparing standards and procedures for his new office and hiring operations and performance auditors to supplement the existing District contract auditors. "This office has never existed before so I have to put the organization together, including its

staff design, standards and operating procedures. I will be the internal critic for management and the Board." Fuentes stated he will not issue any evaluation prematurely without complete information or based on superficial reports. "That's not my way," he said. When asked how those at the RTD should view him, Fuentes responded, "I hope as someone trying to bring out the best the RTD has to offer. My effectiveness will only be commensurate with the cooperation of the rest of the organization. An evaluator has no value if no one listens."

For the past five years Fuentes has managed the legal review and approval of \$800 million in federal transportation contracts and grants and enforced UMTA's Buy America program, real estate acquisition, environmental mitigation, and public contracting functions and requirements. He also approved proposed bonding and tax-benefit sales transactions and investigated contractor protests of grantee procurement actions.

During his tenure in UMTA's San Francisco regional office, Fuentes earned the agency's certificate of excellence.

Between 1979 and 1982, Fuentes

served as an advisor in the UMTA chief counsel's Washington office enforcing rules protecting private transportation companies from competition with public agencies using federal subsidies. He also guided the agency's executives in the administration of equal employment, minority business enterprise, and elderly and handicapped programs. He also helped improve the agency's system for conducting compliance reviews to include quality assurance and productivity measures.

Fuentes also served as a member of the Coast Guard Board of Correction of Military Records.

Concurrently, Fuentes was assigned as UMTA regional counsel in Philadelphia where he was responsible for approving all grants, drafting contracts for regional operations, and settling contractor disputes.

As a result of excellence in handling both assignments, Fuentes was awarded UMTA's citation for superior achievement.

Between 1978 and 1979, Fuentes served as an attorney in the general counsel's office of the Executive Office of the President, Council on Wage and Price Stability, where his duties included implementation of the Ethics in Government Act. He also evaluated waiver requests of private companies and served as a member of the federal price board. He also advised agency executives on the application of federal personnel laws and conducted cost benefit analyses of statutory and regulatory proposals.

Between 1973 and 1977, Fuentes served as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice where he designed an administrative system for investigation, conciliation, and resolution of employment complaints and grievances. The system was used to eliminate in one year a backlog of hundreds of grievances. He also formulated a system for conducting program audits of contractors, and police agencies within state and local governments. In addition, he served as project manager for a team of 30 investigative contractors and consultants.

A native of Los Angeles, Fuentes is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law in Newark, N.J. where he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence. He is a member of the Bar in Washington, D.C. Fuentes also earned a bachelor of science degree in economics from Loyola University in Los Angeles.

He and his wife, Beverly, reside in Tiburon with their three children.

COMMENDATIONS



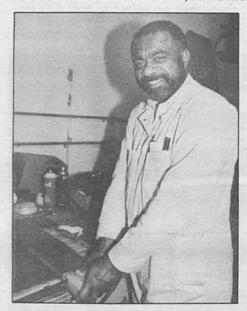
Certificates of Merit were presented to the January Employees of the Month at the February 26 Board of Directors' Meeting by RTD Director Charles H. Storing. Those employees included, front row, left to right: Information Operator David Ullrich, Division 5 Mechanic A John Stonum, and Division 1 Operator Lonnie Anders. Back row, left to right: RTD Director Storing, Division 5 Maintenance Manager Luchus Smith, General Manager John A. Dyer, and Division 1 Transportation Manager Chris Coleman.



RTD Retirees were recognized at the February 12 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented plaques by RTD Director Norman Emerson. Front row, from left to right: Division 18 Operator Hamilton Lynum, Division 12 Operator Merrill L. Fretwell, EDP Scheduling Supervisor Murphy Swindell, and Division 9 Operator Lewis W. Thompson. Back row, from left to right: Assistant General Manager for Operations Robert Korach, RTD Director Emerson, UTU Local 1563 Chairman John Cockburn, RTD Board Vice-President Carmen Estrada, and General Manager John A. Dyer.



RTD Retirees were recognized at the February 12 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented plaques by RTD Director Norman Emerson. Front row, from left to right: Division 4 Utility A Albert E. Black, Division 12 Operator Donald J. Biehn, Division 15 Operator Laverne A. Darling, and Division 1 Operator Robert J. Felder. Back row, from left to right: Assistant General Manager for Operations Robert Korach, RTD Director Emerson, UTU Local 1563 Chairman John Cockburn, RTD Vice-President Carmen Estrada, and General Manager John A. Dyer.



Mechanic A Rayfield Greathouse was chosen South Park Shop's Employee of the Month for January. Greathouse has been with the District for 21 years, he is presently employed in the Upholstery Shop. He has been at South Park since 1973. His supervisors describe him as a self-starter who assumes full responsibility for any job he is assigned. He consistently produces high quality upholstery work. His attitude, attendance, and dependability are excellent.



was named Employee of the Quarter by the Marketing and Communications Department for the Fall Quarter 1986. This title is awarded to the department employee whose performance goes beyond the expectations of the job description and has a significant, positive effect on the department and the District. Davy, with only seven months at the District, is the contact person for the Herald-Examiner reporters. He channels the requests of the seven reporters assigned to the RTD beat and deals with them in a cordial, professional manner - true grace under pressure. Davy received a plaque and a \$50 Savings Bond.



Transportation Division 9 and Maintenance Division 16 were recognized as the divisions that achieved the most improved safety record for the fourth quarter in 1986. During the quarter, the operators at Division 9 kept their traffic accident rate at an impressive 3.7 accidents per 100,000 miles. This is well under the District's goal of 4.4. They also reduced lost time injuries from 24 accidents per 100,000 hours worked to 5 for each 100,000 hours worked. This is also well below the District's goal of 9.5. Division 16 Maintenance employees reduced their lost time injury rate by 85 percent—down from 18.6 in the third quarter to 2.8 for the last quarter. This rate is below the District goal of 9.0. As an added "safety bonus" each manager receiving the award was presented a \$100 check for their personal efforts in attaining safety excellence. Front row, from left to right: Safety Manager Joseph Reyes, Division 9 Manager Don Karlson, and Division 16 Manager Jim Findley. Back row, from left to right: RTD Board President Jan Hall and General Manager John A. Dyer.



Cabinet Maker Joe Sprein from Vernon yard was selected as the Facilities Maintenance Employee of the Month for January. Sprein has been with the District since 1981. His supervisors value him for his excellent craftsmanship. They are impressed with his ability to handle all facets of a project from start to finish. He has an excellent attendance record and is well liked and respected by his peers and superiors. The sweepstakes winner for January was Electrician Bobby Bray from Vernon Yard. Bray received a \$25 cash

Making Gains

RTD has made significant gains in reducing operating costs and improving productivity, General Manager John Dyer reported March 5.

Midway through Fiscal Year 1987, RTD's operating cost per revenue service hour has averaged \$64.53, which is below the budgeted goal of \$71.50. Cost per boarding passenger has averaged \$1.03, which is better than the District goal of \$1.05.

Improved productivity has enabled the District to reduce expenditures. RTD projects its operating expenditures in FY 87 will be \$21.5 million under the adopted budget of \$516.1 million. However, farebox revenue also is running below the original budget estimates. The District will complete the fiscal year June 27 with a balanced budget after taking further steps to trim costs by eliminating 33

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LA Marathon: Employees Run

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we spoke.

Division 1 Mechanic A James Wilson finished the marathon in 3 hours, 52 minutes. "My feet are really sore, but it was an enjoyable run. The crowd was unbelievable. I told the TV commentators that I was an RTD employee, one who didn't use drugs,"

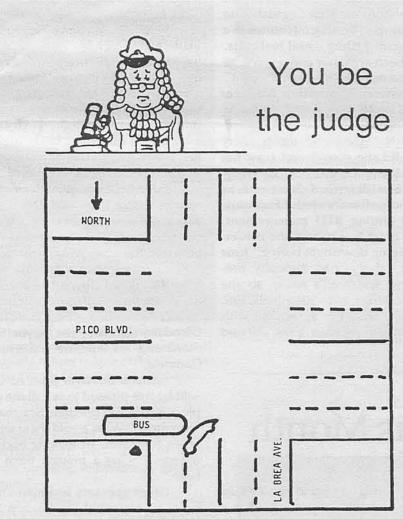


Division 10 Mechanics Tommy Elisaldez and Armando Urena as they pass the 5mile point on Spring St.

said Wilson. Wilson is a triathlete who plans to run in the Long Beach Marathon in May.

Operators David Martinez and Mary Soloman from Division 12 competed this year for the first time. Martinez made it in 4 hours, 22 minutes, while Soloman finished in 6 hours, 59 minutes. Martinez will be running in the Long Beach marathon with the

hope of improving his time. Other RTD participants included Division 5 Operator Ernest Mulvey, 5 hours, 57 minutes; Division 3310 Mechanics Tommy Elisaldez, 4 hours, 21 minutes; Miguel Enriquez, 4 hours, 38 minutes; Marco Pedemonte, 3 hours, 33 minutes; Armando Urena, 4 hours, 42 minutes; and Sergio Rubalcava, 3 hours, 59 minutes; Division 3306 Mechanics Joe Medrano, 4 hours, 23 minutes; and James Owens, 3 hours, 59 minutes; Senior Planner Haim Geffen, 3 hours, 47 minutes; Division 3203 Operators Steven Morales, 4 hours, 22 minutes; Arturo Cardone, 4 hours, 39 minutes; Division 4 Mechanic Alphonso Villanueva, 3 hours, 40 minutes; Staff Assistant Drew Forrest, 4 hours, 20 minutes; and Telephone Information Operator Joshua Torres, 5 hours, 40 minutes.



Someone once pointed out that it is better to judge than to be judged, so here's your chance. Read the operator's statement, examine the diagram and determine if this accident was preventable or unpreventable. The answer is printed below, upside down to discourage cheating.

Operator's Statement: I was out of service operating in the curb lane westbound on Pico Boulevard at approximately 25 miles per hour. The signal was green and, when I was about 35 feet from the intersection of La Brea Avenue, an automobile traveling eastbound attempted to make a left turn in front of the bus, causing me to run into his right side.

not see the sign. the bus means. Often, they canof what the sign on the front of bile drivers are not always aware bus was not in service, automopassengers. Even though the La Brea to pick up or discharge the bus would stop at Pico and motorist could have thought that by being in the curb lane, the tor should have anticipated that the accident. Second, the operaby 17 feet, probably preventing reduced the stopping distance tion. This practice would have bus approached the intersecfoot over the brake pedal as the bus operator should have had a First, as a defensive driver, the preventable for two reasons. turn, this accident was judged automobile made an illegal left Answer: Even though the

RTD Makes Gains Continued from page 4

administrative positions in February and reducing non-driver overtime, among other actions.

The following are other measures of productivity tracked in the RTD performance profile for December 1986:

- Hub miles between road calls for equipment breakdowns averaged 4,319 miles for the first six months of the fiscal year. This far exceeds RTD's FY 87 budget goal of 3,300 miles. The average was 4,604 miles in the last quarter, which is 46 percent better than the same period last year. Road calls are defined as responses to bus breakdowns that cause service delays of 10 minutes or more. The District credits its deployment of additional field mechanics, in downtown and other parts of the city where bus service is concentrated, for reducing service delays.
- Wheelchair boardings were up 63 percent in the last quarter compared to the same period last year
- RTD averaged 1.7 crime incidents per 1 million passenger boardings in the last quarter, 6 percent below the same period last year.
- RTD averaged 3.8 complaints per 100,000 boardings in the last quarter, slightly below the yearto-date average of 3.9.
- In the last quarter, RTD averaged 4.6 accidents per 100,000 hub miles traveled, which compares to 4.7 for the same period.

Amending IRS Returns

Income tax conversations are the norm during this time of year and tax-payers thrive on swapping tax filing stories. Quite often during such conversations, some taxpayers realize that they have made an error on their tax return by forgetting to report income or claim tax credits and deductions to which they are entitled, or they have erroneously claimed deductions or credits to which they were not entitled.

These errors made on previously filed tax returns can be corrected by filing an amended return, Form 1040X, the Internal Revenue Service says. Taxpayers who find it necessary to amend this year's tax return should wait at least 10 weeks after they originally filed to submit Form 1040X. However, if money is owed, they should submit the amended return by April 15.

It is not necessary to file an amended return to correct addition and subtraction errors. It is also not necessary to file an amended return if a required schedule was not submitted, IRS adds. If this is the case, IRS will write to request the schedule or attachment.

The amended return which is filed on Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, can be used to correct any previously filed Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. Form 1040X must be filed within three years from the date of the original return or within two years from the time the tax was paid, whichever is later, according to the IRS.

Top Operators for January

The awards for the Operator Recognition Program for the month of January were announced in the latter part of February. The presentations include the Manager's Award with a \$35 check and the Sweepstakes Award which offers a windfall of \$100. 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	Alfred Portillo
3203	Armando R. Jimenez
3205	Homer E. Thomas
3206	Harold L. Hadley
3207	Gene L. Gennarini
3208	Lillian M. Ford
3209	Wordrow Williams
3210	Donna Murdock
3212	Donald Biehn
3215	Alfred Celentano
3216	Arthur Fleming
3218	Marvin Fite

SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

Division	Recipient
3201	Albert Medina
	Gilberto Hernandez
	Ruth Mayfield
3203	Ralph Ponce
	Jesse Curtis
	Stephen Leming
3205	Harry Chandler
	Robert McLaurin
	Rubye Smith
3206	Kevin Eves
	San Wilson
3207	Yandell Lister
	Edwin Jackson
	Jowett Mason
3208	Randy Scott
	Ken Rogers
3209	C.W. Sterling
	James Morris
	Ralph Ruiz
3210	Elizabeth
	Chuntaranakorn
	Jesse Gilder
	Sheila Grover
3212	Alan Pitchard
	Walter Wadlington
3215	Michael Turner
	Donald Cullom
	Gerald Bromwich
3216	Larry Jarman
	Eddie Sanchez
3218	Benjamin Weathersby
	Yvetta Wilson
	Marshall Hunter



Page 6 Headway

Scatchard Retires from RTD Treasurer Office

Over 160 friends, co-workers, employees, board directors, retirees, and representatives from the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the Orange County Transit District attended the retirement dinner for RTD Treasurer-Controller-Auditor Joe Scatchard on February 20 held at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank.

After 15 years as the District's top money manager, Scatchard ends a distinguished career at the RTD that included developing one of the top ten fully-funded pension plans in the state, the deferred compensation plan, and financial plans that enabled the District to purchase 930 buses in 1980.

Director of Government Affairs Barry Engelberg acted as master of ceremonies employing humor so sharp-tongued it could have trimmed a hedge. Engelberg opened the evening's program by introducing the members at the head table who included former Assistant General Manager for Operations Sam Black and his wife Rosalie, Assistant General Manager - Management John Richeson and his wife Kathy, Joe Scatchard and his wife Wyla, General Manager John A. Dyer, RTD Board President Jan Hall, and former RTD Director of Finance Frank Carr. The board members in attendance included John F. Day, Gordana Swanson, Jay Price, Charles Storing, and former RTD Board Vice-President

Master of ceremonies Engelberg introduced a near score of speakers that alternately roasted and applauded Scatchard's 15-year tenure at the District. Despite the good-natured barbs aimed at him, most of the evening's roasters were in agreement that Scatchard is a man well liked and well respected among his friends, coworkers, and employees.

Assistant General Manager — Management John Richeson told the guests that Joe Scatchard could estimate the District's expenditures with



Treasurer Joe Scatchard and his wife Wyla celebrate the onset of retirement at his party held February 20 at the Castaway in Burbank.

unerring accuracy. With underplayed mirth, Richeson said, "Scatchard could, on the back of an envelope, estimate our expenses and somehow always have them match our reve-

Planning Manager Steve Parry declared Scatchard a "financial wizard." "For years now we've always seen Joe with a ready smile and he never shows any signs of stress. We've always wondered how he's done it." Stealing into his office Parry said he found the Acme Financial Wizard set that enabled Scatchard to so magically produce his numbers. The set included a numbered dartboard and enough darts to estimate the District's expenditures within one-tenth of a point. Lest Scatchard feel unarmed, Parry offered Scatchard a whole box full of the backs of envelopes from which the fronts had been neatly trimmed by the Planning Department.

Former Assistant General Manager of Operations Sam Black said he admired Scatchard for his ability to improve the District's financial health. "He's embarking on a new tour in life

that I think he'll enjoy very much," he said.

Wally Ryland, Metro Rail's insurance consultant, flew in from Dallas, Texas to pay homage to Scatchard. "He's the only financial person that the state of California has allowed to use public funds in the futures market." Scatchard got approval from the State Legislature to invest funds in heating oil futures as a hedge against rising diesel fuel costs. "It has been an honor and a privilege to know a man like Joe," said Ryland.

General Accounting Manager Josie Nicasio was a real standout among the speakers with her remarkable comedic sense of timing. Very gently did she skewer and roast her boss to the audience's obvious enjoyment. She described Scatchard as calm and well mannered. "He's quite unique among RTD management. He's so quiet that he's on the borderline of being downright boring." Josie said she always had difficulty pronouncing Scatchard's name, so she took to calling him by his initials, JBS. When she wasn't in agreement with any particular decision of his, she said

she would deemphasize his first initial and put heavier stress on the last two, responding with "Yes, ...J...B.S." "I am sorry he's leaving the RTD. He's been my mentor, he is special to me, I named my son after him." Trading compliments, Scatchard grabbed the microphone as Josie left the podium and said, "There goes the best accountant in the business."

Former Director of Finance Frank Carr said he never met a person who didn't like or respect Scatchard. "He was always doing something innovative. Everyone has already said what I was going to say so I am going to close with this, and no one should ever say this to a treasurer — 'Take the money and run!' "

Sharon Neely and Paul Taylor from the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) presented a resolution to Scatchard commending him for fostering efficient management at the RTD. It was signed by the chairman of the commission Mayor Tom Bradley.

RTD Board President Jan Hall told Scatchard that the District had been very lucky to have had him on staff for as long as it has. On behalf of the RTD Board, Mrs. Hall presented a framed proclamation to Scatchard. "You brought an aura of honor and respectability to your post. You've made many friends. We wish you a happy, healthful retirement."

Director of Finance Mike Butler presented Scatchard with the gift of a clock from the Headquarters Building third floor employees. Butler also read a tribute to Scatchard made by U.S. Representative Carlos Morehead on the floor of Congress.

Finance Department Senior Secretaries Linda Reed and Dee Cook, also the planners and coordinators of the retirement party, presented their

boss and his wife, Wyla, with tickets

for a week's vacation in Hawaii.

RTD Board Director John F. Day,
a councilman from Glendale,
unveiled a resolution from the City of
Glendale, signed by the mayor. Scatchard and his wife are residents of
Glendale.

General Manager John A. Dyer said he was pleased to see all the people who came to celebrate Scatchard's retirement. "What a void there will be when he leaves. In looking back we recognize what a moving force he's been."

Other speakers included Director of Management Information Systems Robert Pentek, former Labor Relations Manager John Wilkens, and UTU General Chairman Earl Clark.

Arriving at the bottom line of the evening and allowed the last word, Scatchard thanked all in attendance for the party and their kind words. "I had the best people around to help me when I started at the RTD. Back then, I didn't know which end of the bus was the front." Scatchard joked that he felt his retirement was timely in that he was leaving before the grand jury investigation, the state audit, and the fare hearings were concluded. "I want you all to know the Herald-Examiner offered me a deal to spill my guts and reveal all. Their price is a two-month subscription. I'm holding out for three months. Good-bye, I'll see you all in the newspapers."

Don't Forget Your Secretary This Month

The secretaries of our company help to keep things running smoothly. Writing letters, answering phones, making sure reports get to the right person, weeding out "important" from "unimportant" details, sorting mail, protecting your privacy from canny sales reps and pesky fellow employees, doing public relations when complaining customers call, and when you need someone to press for a special favor.

Today's secretaries are businessminded, poised individuals, competent, and highly skilled. Today's secretaries play major roles in each boss' success 260 working days (more or less) each year.

A secretary's job has never been easy. The earliest secretaries were Babylonian scribes who took dictation on clay tablets. Filing those tablets must have been quite a chore! Can you imagine the filing room?

The first break for secretaries came from the Egyptians, who with their ingenuity hammered papyrus into long strips and invented paper. This rapidly took the place of the cumbersome clay tablets, thus giving secretaries a break and causing the decline of the local chiropractor's business.

Egyptians, Hebrews, and Persians were among the first to use shorthand. But Tiro, a Greek slave, developed the first true shorthand method in taking down the lengthy speeches of his boss, the Roman orator Cicero. It wasn't until the 1800s that the Gregg and Pitman shorthand systems were developed in England. They became tremendously important with the invention of the typewriter.

The first practical typewriter was patented in 1868. A true mechanical wonder, it was mounted on a sewing machine stand and operated with a quick and accurate hand, and a foot pedal, as well. Secretaries were men.

Imagine the uproar when the New York Young Women's Christian Association announced they would be training young women to operate this difficult piece of equipment! What a surprise when eight young ladies graduated six months later without any ill effects! Their pioneering spirit opened a whole new field for women. By World War I, women were being actively recruited for secretarial jobs. The opportunities have grown since then, and continue to grow today.

Show your secretary how much you appreciate the hard work, loyalty, professionalism, and exceptional abilities. Send flowers, go to lunch together, send a thank you card, offer a cup of coffee, or—if the budget allows—send your secretary on a weekend trip to a place she or he helped you get to before.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your wonderful job.

We Salute Our Secretaries:
Professional
Secretaries' Week
April 19-25



Division 3 Hosts First Black Achievement Day

Transportation Division 3 celebrated Black Achievement during the last week of February, culminating the week-long observance on February 27 with live entertainment, special guest appearances, ethnic foods, and an awards ceremony.

Operator Michele Taylor, who conceived the idea and the chairperson of the division's Black Achievement Committee, acted as mistress of ceremonies for the event that began at 9 a.m.

The periphery of the train room was made into a gallery with color photo portraits of black RTD employees who have achieved status by moving up the ranks at the District. Seen as role models for all employees, those depicted included Director of Customer Relations Bob Williams, Division 3 Assistant Manager Maceo Bethel, Division 3 Manager A. J. Taylor, Acting Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey, Transportation Superintendent Wes McCarns, Assistant General Manager - Equal Opportunity Walter Norwood, and Director of Local Government and Community Affairs Lou Collier.



"I just got to sit down," shouts young actress Eboni Johns in her dramatic rendition of a tribute to Rosa Parks at the Division 3 Black Achievement Celebration.

Speakers' presentations were followed by entertainment that included singers Chiko Floyd and Bernita Smith who also gave a dramatic reading entitled "In Troubled Times."

The entertainment program was interspersed with honors presentations to each of the RTD achievers. Michele Taylor offered each recipient a statuette of an eagle. The eagle, symbolizing the "soaring high" of each of the honorees, was hand made by the committee. A.J. Taylor, the first recipient, expressed appreciation for the recognition and lavished praise on his operators. "Division 3 is a melting pot. Our success is based on team work," he said. Division 10 Manager Harold Hollis, also a recipient, told the audience, "Attitude is what is most needed to be an achiever."

Acting Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey received an eagle award. In her remarks, Ms. Bailey said she told managers to act as role models for operators by letting go of the old "accusation" system. "We have high goals; to reduce absenteeism and to have operators feel that management is accessible to them beyond the level of a write-up. A.J.



Operator Loretta Haliburton cuts the cake celebrating the first achievement day at Division 3.



Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey was given an Eagle Award by Operator Michele Taylor at Division 3's Black Achievement Celebration.

Taylor, Maceo Bethel, and Chuck Lerud have established just such a relationship with their operators."

Assistant General Manager — Equal Opportunity Walter Norwood accepted his eagle award and said, "Recognizing black achievement as well as that of other minorities is critical to the progress of our society. Through this sharing we come to know each other better. It doesn't always mean that we'll all like each other but that we can get along and can work in harmony."



Transportation Superintendent Wes McCarns received an Eagle Award from Operator Michele Taylor at Division 3's Black Achievement Celebration.

When Superintendent Wes McCarns received his eagle, he recounted his 29 years at the District breaking new ground as the first black staff assistant, the first black planning analyst, the first black assistant division manager, the first black division manager, and the first black transportation superintendent.

The audience, composed of Division 3 operators and various District personnel, was invited to partake in the generous helpings of ethnic foods which included savory soul food prepared by the Taylor Catering Company. The menu offered red beans, rice, pork and beef ribs, pork chops, collard greens, black-eyed peas, corn bread, and peach cobbler. Other dishes included a Filipino dish, pancit, prepared by Operator Luduvico Castro, cabbage salad and shoo-fly pie prepared by Operator Kris Sharp, and chicken mole prepared by Instructor Alberto Rodriquez.



Division 3 Manager A. J. Taylor accepts his Eagle Award from Operator Michele Taylor.

Other noted speakers and honorees included the Rev. James A. Brown, pastor of the Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship in Pasadena; ex-Raider defensive back Charles Phillips; Steven Mack, long-time activist with the Pasadena NAACP and this year's winner of the Tenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Award given by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. (Mack is the father of RTD Metro Rail Senior Secre-



Assistant General Manager—Equal Opportunity Walter Norwood accepts his Eagle Award from Operator Michele Taylor at Division 3's Black Achievement Celebration.

tary Juanita Wright.); and Dr. Earl Claiborne and his wife Marie, who once were close friends of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

In the early afternoon, attendees were treated to a sportswear fashion show with models wearing original designs created by Margarita for Esse Fashions and Jacquell.

Eboni Johns, 10, a student at Normandie Avenue Elementary School, was the show stopper of the day as she entranced her audience with her brilliant performance of Rosa Parks from the reading "I Just Got To Sit Down — A Tribute to Rosa Parks" written by Delores Dixon Lakey.

When she conceived the idea of a Black Achievement Day, Michele Taylor felt it a mistake that we tend to honor people after they are gone. "What about all the people who are achieving now? This year we chose to recognize blacks on our first annual achievement day; we plan to recognize other minorities in the following years. We want to know more about each other's backgrounds so we can work better together."

Members of the Black Achievement Committee who helped make the day such a success included Leon Robertson, Loretta Haliburton, Thomas Metoyer, Dorothy Allen, Robert Shuffer, and Greg Gower.



Retiree Ben Lynum tells what it was like being the "Jackie Robinson" of the RTD by breaking the color barrier and becoming the first black RTD Supervisor.



The Black Achievement Celebration Committee included, left to right: Division 3 Instructor Dorothy Allen, Ronald Taylor, Division 3 Operator Leon Robertson, Division 3 Operator Beverly Gayton, and Rudy Greg Gower.

Division 3306 Takes Top Honor as the

Maintenance Division 6 took Division of the Quarter for Fall 1986 for showing the greatest total percentage of improvement among the other operating divisions.

General Manager John A. Dyer presented Division Manager Michael Singer with the traveling trophy and the division's permanent plaque on February 27. "I appreciate how hard it was for you to win this recognition. This is a difficult environment to work in . . . I know it feels like you are under siege," Dyer told the mechanics. Division 6, in recent years, has been unpopular with its residential neighbors because of the noise emitted from the yard despite many efforts to abate it. Dyer assured the employees that the neighbors will soon all be happier as a new site for Division 6 has been purchased. The new facility will be constructed on eight acres known as the Lopez Ranch site on Jefferson Blvd. The move will occur within the next two years.

The division's performance during the quarter was judged against baseline indicators in the following areas: absenteeism, miles between road calls, repeat road calls, cleanliness of buses and work locations, occupational injuries, preventive maintenance, late pull-outs, cancellations, wheelchair lifts, and VMS log on/off.

Those employees whose attend-



Recognized as the Maintenance Division of the Quarter for the fourth quarter, Division 6 Maintenance Manager Michael Singer is presented the traveling trophy by General Manager John A. Dyer.

to participate in the raffle which offered prizes of weekend trips for two, sporting events, concerts, and dinners for two.

The employees were treated to a morning break of cake and coffee. Coffee was served in the new mugs they received as members of the winning division. They also received commemorative pins detailing the recognition program's logo.

Maintenance Manager Michael Singer received an incentive check for \$250, Supervisor II Alex Dinuzzo received \$150, Supervisors I Jim Sherman and James Pilon received \$100, and Equipment Service Supervisor Prize — \$300 trip for two — choice of Las Vegas, San Diego, or Palm Springs — Joe Williams; \$80 Employee Activities tickets to a show, concert, or sporting event — William Jones; \$80 Employee Activities tickets to a show, concert, or sporting event — Fausto Flores; \$50 Charley Brown's Restaurant — Humberto Arango; \$50 Charley Brown's Restaurant — John Calidonio; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Jim Owens; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Maureen Esquiroz; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — David Flores; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Jewel Junior; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Michele Collins.

Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis presented Division 6 Transportation Manager Eugene Hamilton with a plaque in appreciation for his cooperation and help toward the winning division.

Maintenance General and Division 4 jointly recognized their employees of the quarter. Director of Equipment Maintenance Davis addressed the employees prior to the presentation, commenting on the latest press stories. "We are taking a beating from the press. You have to have a hide like an alligator to work in the public sector. I think we are the biggest non-story in Southern California. In spite of all our 'ineptness,' today 2,400 buses rolled out on the streets and 95 percent of them on time." Davis cautioned the employees to keep things in perspective and said that management was initiating a more proactive approach with the

Employees chosen for recognition were Administrative Analyst Jane Bouffard from Maintenance General, Senior Supervisor Jules Gautier from Division 4, and NDI Technician Richard Damron from Equipment Engineering. Each employee received a check for \$150 and an employee-of-the-quarter plaque.

In the drawing held, the following employees won prizes at Division 4:

\$50 Charley Brown's — Francisco Perez; \$50 Charley Brown's Restaurant — Jane Bouffard; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Charles Porter; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Charles Davis; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Alvin Parker; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Drew Forrest; \$25 El Torito Restaurant — Art Fukumoto.

continued on page 9



All the folks at Division 6 and the people behind them who made it possible for them to achieve Division of the Quarter.



Division 6 Transportation Manager Eugene Hamilton was given a plaque of appreciation by the Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis for his assistance and cooperation to Maintenance. Front row, from left to right: Division 6 Transportation Manager Eugene Hamilton and Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis. Back row, from left to right: General Manager John A. Dyer and Division 6 Maintenance Manager Michael Singer.

ance was perfect, had no chargeable occupational injuries, had no chargeable vehicular accidents, and no disciplinary action reported were eligible Allen Richards received \$100.

Prizes were awarded to the following Division 6 employees eligible for the raffle:

Health Fair Coming to Div. 5

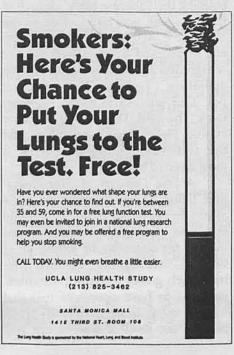
Rumors are rife that this year's annual health fair for employees and their families will be adding a whole new morning of special events. The community park next to the fair site at Division 5 has been reserved for the exclusive use of employees and their families. As usual, the annual Transit Police Walk/Run will be the kick-off event followed by food and drinks available back in the Van Ness Park. Between the Walk/Run and the fair proper will be a whole morning of special fun and physical fitness contests and games with awards and prizes. In addition, it is rumored that John Mackey, president of the National Football League and some Olympic champions will be on hand to meet and speak to employees and their families and children. Following the awards presentations and snacks, the fair will begin at 12:30.

For those who are unfamiliar with the RTD annual health fair, several hundred dollars worth of free medical screening is available for anyone interested, that is, employees and families.

Samples and information about all kinds of health-related products are also available. Usually there are around 40 booths, many of them with things to do as part of their offering. For example, there is a fingerprint booth for children to help protect them. Some booths will offer healthy snacks in place of candy, or juice in place of soda. Others will provide visual or hands-on experiences. One young person looked at the real human lung displays showing the

effects of smoking and, then and there, swore off cigarettes forever.

All health screening information whether it relates to your heart, your blood, your back, your lungs, your weight, your vision or hearing, your flexability, your risk for diabetes or stroke etc., all such information is strictly confidential. No information is released to the RTD as it is illegal to release such information without a release of information form signed by the person undergoing the screening. So feel free to come and enjoy and learn and participate in a full day devoted to your very own personal health and well-being. Be sure to watch your bulletin boards, mailbox, handouts, and this newspaper for news of further developments.



Division of the Quarter for Fall 1986



Administrative Analyst Jane Bouffard was chosen Maintenance General's Employee of the Quarter. Along with the honor came a plaque and a check for \$150 presented by Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis.



Senior Supervisor Jules Gautier was named Employee of the Quarter from Division 4. He was presented his plaque and a check for \$150 from Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis.



NDI Technician Richard Damron was selected as Equipment Engineering's Employee of the Quarter. He earned a check for \$150 and a plaque from Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis.

South Park's Automotive Shop was named the Shop of the Quarter for the third quarter running. The jubilant automotive mechanics celebrated with afternoon coffee and cake. Senior Equipment Supervisor II Howard Shelter complimented his crew by saying, "The mechanics won this for me, I didn't win it." Shelter accepted the shop's plaque and received a check for \$150. Supervisors Jim Reynolds, Norman Boucher, Bob Boyer, and R.C. Gonzalez each received a check for \$100.

Of those eligible for the drawing based on performance and attend-

ance, raffle prizes were won by the following employees:

\$300 trip for two — choice of Las Vegas, Palm Springs, or San Diego — Fidel Ruiz; \$80 Employee Activities tickets to a show, concert, or sporting event — Melvin Levine; \$80 Employee Activities tickets to a show, concert, or sporting event — Tony De La Rosa; \$50 Charley Brown's Restaurant — Thomas Hummell; \$50 Charley Brown's Restaurant — Choon Lee; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Gilbert Gomez; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Gary Markarian; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Ted Brown; \$25 Reuben's Restaurant — Eldon Kelly.

Typist-Clerk Annette Goodlett, with the District for two years, was selected from the South Park office personnel as Employee of the Quarter. She received an employee-of-the-quarter plaque and a check for \$150.

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, two trips to Hawaii will be raffled off to contract and non-con-

tract maintenance employees who worked in a division winning division of the quarter, a shop which won shop of the quarter, or individual employees selected as employees of the quarter. This summer *Headway* readers will discover the lucky employees who will win the Equipment Maintenance Department's Big Spin.



South Park's Automotive Shop took the Shop-of-the-Quarter title for the third quarter running. Those champion shop supervisors include, front row, left to right: R. C. Gonzalez, Jim Reynolds, and Senior Supervisor Howard Shelter. Back row, left to right: Norman Boucher and Bob Boyer.



Annette Goodlett was named South Park's Employee of the Quarter. She was presented her plaque and check by Director of Equipment Maintenance and Superintendent Ken Miller.

POETS' CORNER

Editor's Note: In January 1987, I was asked to speak to classes of sixth-, seventh-and eighth-graders at the De Anza Middle School in Ventura. We discussed the RTD and production of the Headway. After the visit, the students' teacher, Myra Fernandez, asked her class to compose poems about "the bus." I wish I could publish all of them but space does not permit it. A selection from those I received follow helow

Bus's

The bus window stretches out So all the people can shout But please oh please save a window seat for me The reason why is because I need fresh air for me

If the window wasn't there I'd pout and never look out

That's why the RTD is good for me
—Amika Love
RTD buses have many seats

it round from the top yeah Is wheel-chair accessible many colors many stops many people thousand big wheels Ads on the top of the roof charge money 85¢

Serving L.A.

-Victor Leon

IN MEMORIAM

Andrade, George R., began with the District as an Operator on November 13, 1945, passed away July 26, 1986. Bryant, Wiley S., began with the District as an Operator on September 25, 1945, passed away on December 20, 1986.

Hanna, Robert L., began with the District as an Operator on June 14, 1948, passed away on January 28, 1987.

Grijalva, Alberto C., began with the District as an Operator on December 18, 1942, passed away on September 20, 1986.

Schwer, Wallace M., began with the District as an Operator on July 22, 1952, passed away on January 23, 1987.

Page 10 Headway

President Jerry Long Steps Down from ATU Post

Jerry Long, past president of the Amalgamated Transit Union—Local 1277, heard labor and management chiefs extol his achievements at a retirement dinner held in his honor at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on February 13.

The sounds of the Steve Hideg orchestra created a light, relaxed ambience in the Regency's Royal Ballroom as ATU President Neal Silver opened the ceremony by introducing the guests at the head table. Long's retirement undoubtedly creates a vacuum in the labor movement as attested to by the ATU International President James La Sala, the Canadian Labor Council's Executive Secretary Ken Foster, and representatives from other locals who were present at the dinner.

ATU President La Sala postponed his trip to the AFL-CIO's
annual convention in Bal Harbour,
Florida for a day because he felt it as
important to pay tribute to Long.
"Decisive leadership is exactly what
Jerry gave you. In the 1974 strike, he
was able to hold the membership
together for eight weeks while negotiactions went on," said La Sala. "It is to
Long's credit," La Sala said, "that RTD
mechanics enjoy the third highest
level of pay among mechanics in the
nation."

ways. Jerry has taught us what strength and courage really are. We say 'Thank you,' "La Sala concluded.

Ed Moran, the vice-president of the Multiple Sclerosis Society based in New York and present at the dinner, said since the ATU has adopted the society as its national charity, a block grant had been given to fund a research project at the University of Southern California. "Someday the ATU will sponsor their own research project. They play an extremely important part in finding the cure for this disease. In fact, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has named the ATU the Outstanding Supporting Organization of the Multiple Sclerosis Society for 1987." A plaque was presented to both Long and La Sala by Moran.

General Manager John A. Dyer said he regards Long as one of the outstanding union leaders in the United States, "if not the world." Dyer remarked that there were three general managers, two labor relations managers, and the Canadian representative in the audience. "This is a real tribute to this man of leadership. Jerry's greatest challenge in the last two-and-a-half years was in closing up the last of the contract negotiations in a no-strike agreement."

Former RTD Labor Relations Manager John Wilkens said he had come out of retirement to Los Angeles



Jerry Long, accompanied by his oldest daughter Cindy, enjoys the many deserved tributes paid him at his retirement dinner.

Ken Foster from the Canadian Labor Council, ATU International Vice-President Oscar Owens, President—Local 192 Edward R. Billie, ATU Counsel Joseph Freitas, Jr., and ATU Local 1277 Treasurer Mike Bujosa who presented Long with a model cannon made by South Park Mechanic A Cecil Bard.

In response to his friends and colleagues, Long said, "Thanks to all my friends. You know, people ask me all the time how I can deal with this disease. I always tell them it ain't so

bad. There's a whole lot of people out there a whole lot worse off than I am. Just take a look around at all the friends I have in this room. It's been a real pleasure. I've got a whole lot of memories to take with me."

At the conclusion of the program, friends and acquaintances of Long queued up in a long line to wish him a happy retirement. Long will work with the Multiple Sclerosis Society to create awareness about the disease, counsel patients, and raise funds for research.



ATU Local 1277 President Neal Silver presents retiring President Jerry Long with a commemorative plaque at the dinner held in Long's honor at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on February 13.

La Sala detailed for the audience Long's trauma in being struck with multiple sclerosis at the height of his career. "With the help of his many friends and his family he was able to make the transition that affected his sight. He was too proud to tell anyone he had the disease and he tried to bluff everyone for years," La Sala continued. Long was so familiar with labor contracts and by-laws that he had them virtually memorized and no one doubted he was reading when in reality he was only reciting from memory. "Five years later it caught up with him. Or, he might still be putting on his seeing act," said La Sala. "Someone noticed the book he claimed to be reading from, and I might add flawlessly, was upside down."

Long was the inspiration for the ATU adopting the Multiple Sclerosis Society as its charity and creating the Jerry Fund. To date, the ATU has already donated \$25,000 to the U.S. Multiple Sclerosis Society and \$25,000 to the Canadian Multiple Sclerosis Society. The ATU International plans to donate an additional \$50,000 this year. "The members of Local 1277 are richer materially and in intangible

to reactivate the old "John and Jerry Show," a reference to the many television appearances the two had made during past strikes. "Jerry was always a man of his word. After a long fight we always wound up with an agreement. When he shook my hand that was it. It was an honor to fight him and I grew to love him very much," said Wilkens.

Director of Equipment Maintenance Rich Davis and Superintendent Sam Singer presented Long with the traditional Maintenance keepsake—a farebox lamp. "I regard Jerry Long as a statesman," said Davis. "His word is his bond. I respect him a great deal. He is a tremendous example of what the labor movement can do."

UTU General Chairman Earl Clark said jokingly, "Now you can enjoy the pension plan that the UTU negotiated for you." Clark sees Long as the model among labor leaders. "It was a privilege to work with you. You are a man among men and a leader among leaders." On behalf of the UTU and in the name of Jerry Long, Clark presented a check for \$1,000 to the Jerry Fund.

Other speakers to pay tribute to Long included Executive Secretary

Wellness Reps Add Quality and Care to Co-workers Lives

Each division in the District has a wellness representative who has volunteered to take on an extra job, to do more, stretch further to add quality and care to the lives of their co-workers. Instructors, safety representatives, administrative assistants, secretaries, clerks, managers, supervisors, and operators, have volunteered to help out with various health or wellness projects.

Most of you know your wellness representative. They are the ones who encouraged you to participate in the GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE-OUT DAY. They hang the posters and announcements, set up displays, promote the annual Health Fair and generally help make wellness projects successful.

Following is a list of their names. I personally thank them for that extra they give, and I hope you do too.

BIRTH



Born to Communication Representative Carlene Noyes and her husband Mark; their first child, a son, Evon Anderson, October 24, 1986, in Fullerton. Evon weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz., and was 21½ inches long at birth. Carlene coordinates the newly established corporate pass program for the RTD Marketing Department. Her husband, Mark, is the executive assistant manager of the Alicante Princess Hotel in Orange County.

For Sale

Operator's watch—Ball, Official Standard, Transmaster, gold frame, manual. Only \$65.00 Call Dave at extension 2260.

Transportation

3201 Jack Farley
3203 Dorothy Allen
3205 Barbara A. Hayforth
3206 Audrey R. Alexander
3207 Betty Williams
3208 Diane Collins
3209 Earl Rollins
3210 Louella Houston
3212 E.L. Paternoster
3215 Antenor G. Dominguez
3216 Rogelio Valdez
3218 Dana Coffey

Transit Police

Steve Eargle

Maintenance

3301 Robert Adams 3303 Richard Lujan 3304 Mary Helen Vega 3305 Miranda Tucker 3306 Maureen Esquiroz 3307 Henry Prater 3308 Emilio Caballero 3309 James McKinney 3310 Tommy Elisaldez 3312 Jim Davis 3314 Bill Crise 3315 Mike Shepherd 3316 Don Shields 3318 Theral Golden Vernon Yard David Ikeler

—Luanna Urie

From Loving Too Much to One Who Can Love Herself

Connie Amstone says she is a woman who loves too much. She describes a woman who loves too much as one who obsesses about her partner and calls that obsession love, allowing it to control her emotions and much of her behavior, realizing that it negatively influences her health and well-being, and yet finding herself unable to let go. In short, she measures the degree of her love by the depth of her tor-

Although Connie admits to a history of abuse both in her childhood and later in her relationships, she has begun her recovery process toward self-empowerment and self-love. She likens her pattern of destructive loving to that of a drug addict's behavior. "I believe these patterns of addiction began when I was a little girl. Rather than deal with my feelings, I stuffed them down. I did that by becoming addicted to food." Overeating was her reaction to a dysfunctional family.

As a teenager, Connie became pregnant while in high school and married her child's father. She terms that relationship as an abusive one. "The relationship lasted two years, just long enough to have two children, and then he left me."

As a battered and abandoned wife, Connie turned to alcohol and drugs. "After he left, I became a periodic alcoholic. The booze took over and I became a black-out drinker. I once lost five days in Tijuana. That's scary when you don't remember anything that happened."

Along with the alcohol, Connie took diet pills, barbiturates, "anything that would make me not feel my feelings." In order to support her children and her addictions, Connie became a waitress. "It was like one big party. Even though I was drinking a lot, I managed to make a lot of money. I was able to save and open up a dress shop and dance studio." She says her life seemed to take an upswing at this point. She was respectable. She owned four houses, two cars, belonged to the country club, the chamber of commerce, and the Business and Professional Women's Association. "I was so successful that I was asked to run for the mayor of Baldwin Park."

In spite of her accomplishments and the esteem her community lavished on her, Connie was in and out of abusive relationships with men during that period. "When things get too good with people like me, we always worry that it's going to end."

Within a few years, Connie's life began a downward spiral after a series of tragic accidents that resulted in an insurmountable number of liens being issued against her.

"Back then I thought someone had put a spell on me. I couldn't deal with all the liens filed against me. I lost it all, all I had. I remember distinctly on July 4, 1979, the U.S. Marshal coming to my house with an eviction order."

She kicked the alcohol and drugs and put her children in a foster home. "I had to do that or I'm sure the courts would have taken them away from me." Soon after, she opened a bakery of which she is still part owner. "In 1982, I came to work for the RTD as an operator out of Division 10. I thought it would just be for a short while." Without drugs to control her weight, Connie went from a size 12 to 241/2 in a matter of a few months. "I



Division 10 Operator Connie Amstone is making the transition from a "woman who loves too much" to a woman who can love herself and say no without feeling guilty. She was honored for her work with battered women by the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission in Janu-

was getting write-ups for eating on the bus. I cried all the time for no apparent reason. As an operator I couldn't use laxatives like I had done in the past to keep my weight down. It was bad. If it had not been for my caring division manager (Don Karlson) and supervisor (Chris Coleman), I don't know where I would have ended." Karlson referred Connie to the Employees' Assistance Program (EAP). Through the EAP, Connie received the help she needed. She discovered her compulsive personality by becoming a member of a 12-step program. "At first I thought those people in the program were crazy. But, I was so desperate, hurting so bad, I would have done anything to stop the pain."

It was during this period that Connie also sought therapy. Early in their sessions, her therapist gave her a copy of the book Women Who Love Too Much by Robin Norwood. "What an impression that book made on me. It changed my life. In it I saw my family, my sisters, friends, every relationship I ever had was described in that book. I had to do something. I gave my sisters and friends that book. I was so excited, I said, 'Look, we don't have to live this way anymore!" "

Connie began to read every book about battered women that she could find. One year ago she started a Women Who Love Too Much support group in her home. The group grew so quickly Connie was forced to find larger quarters. She was given space at West Covina Hospital under the auspices of the Renaissance Program. The group meets Mondays from noon to 2 p.m. and Tuesday nights from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at 1740 Cameron, Suite 100 in West Covina at the corner of Cameron and Orange. As of this writing, Connie estimates that approximately 200 women have attended her group. While driving her bus Connie guesses she has given away more than 500 copies of the book to her passengers who have identified themselves as battered women.

Connie is currently working on her bachelor's in psychology. She says if she ever hits the big one she'll use the money to open a women's center.

"I know there are women at the

RTD who are battered. I see them come to work with black eyes. If I can just help one woman not to be like I used to be. . ." Her group uses a 12step approach similar to the one used by Alcoholics Anonymous but adapted for the women's situations. Women are encouraged to share their experience, strength, and hope, and not to keep their pain a secret. Women from all walks of life attend her group. "I always thought if I were thinner, prettier, or wealthier, men wouldn't treat me so badly. . . that I would have to weigh 135 lbs. or drive a new car; self-love has nothing to do with that! Seeing the women who come to our group has helped me see that none of those outside things matter much. Today I love myself. That's new for me."

Looking back, Connie acknowledges that she kept trying to relive those early childhood relationships she grew up with. "I think at some point you feel that that's all you deserve. I've got a lot of physical scars to remind me of my experience, but the worst are inside, you can't see

Three years ago she met a man on her bus whom she describes as

wonderful and supportive. They were recently married. She has shared her past with her husband who finds it hard to believe she allowed people to treat her so abusively. "Now that I'm healthier, I can't either," she said. A healthy woman, Connie says, is a woman who takes care of herself, she can say 'no' without feeling guilty, and she can allow her partners to be, with no need to change or manipulate

"Healthy relationships can seem boring to those of us hooked on negative excitement for so many years. But, for the first time in 40 years I've got someone taking care of me. I was my family's caretaker and played that role in every one of my relationships. It feels good now but sometimes it's scary because I'm still not comfortable

New behaviors for the woman who is in recovery can seem frightening. And, what is normal seems lackluster. Women worry that the happiness or security they experience may not last. "When I get those fears I know I have to work my program and realize I'm happy today. I have to stay out of tomorrow. I have me today. I never had me before!"

Be Smart, Don't Start

Just when parents think their task will be easier, as children become settled in elementary school, some new challenges emerge. If you are a parent of a preteen—or care about the future citizens in your community-you can now join with people in all 50 states to take positive steps to help children say "NO" to the gateway drug: Alcohol.

But children so young don't drink, you think. They do. By the age of just 13, nearly one-third of our boys and one-quarter of our girls call themselves drinkers. And minds and bodies that are still growing can't handle alcohol the way an adult's body does. Early drinking can lead to lost opportunities at best, tragedy at worst. When they drink, children's thinking is impaired, coordination is affected, and personalities often change.

Why do kids drink?

You remember what it was like from ages 8 to 12. How much you wanted to be like everyone else, to feel grown up, to have friends, and to be independent! Every child experiences those feelings—but they also can lead kids to try alcohol. For troubled children, drinking offers an escape from problems as a crutch to bolster a sagging self-confidence. Fortunately, there are steps all of us can take to help preteens develop the strength to say "NO, thank you!"

What can you do?

Sooner or later, every child will be offered a drink or something to smoke, or presented with the chance for early sex. Healthy kids, prepared to make wise decisions to say NO, need adults to raise them to feel good about themselves. They need to know people care about them; to perform as well as they can in all activities; and to set goals for themselves.

It's never too late to start. Even if you drink, you should know why moderate amounts of alcohol may be acceptable for an adult but not for a younger person. You are not being hypocritical when you expect preteens to say no to experiences their young bodies cannot handle. You can take these positive steps to help preteens say "NO":

- 1. Talk together about any topics, including alcohol and drugs.
- 2. Really listen. Avoid criticism, ridicule, and self-righteousness.
- 3. Demonstrate your confidence. Use praise, give responsibility, be affectionate, encourage ques-
- 4. Help children develop strong val-
- 5. Set a good example.
- 6. Help kids deal with peer pressure: Suggest cool ways to say "NO." Be the heavy: "My mother will cut off my allowance."
- 7. Set a clear penalty and enforce your rules.
- 8. Encourage healthy, creative activities. Join in the fun yourself!
- 9. Talk with parents and community groups.
- 10. Know where to seek professional help if you suspect a problem.

This month, watch for announcements on TV and radio aimed at helping kids "Be Smart! Don't Start!"—a national campaign sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Superb take-action materials are available for preteens, parents, and community groups. Call 301-588-5484 or write to NIAAA, Box BSDS, Room 16C10, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

RTD Retirees Social Club Now Meeting in Commerce



Retirees enjoy their new meeting quarters at the City of Commerce Aquatorium.



Former RTD Retirees Social Club Vice-President Mary Johnson (center) with her husband Oscar (far right) and friends.

The Best Years of Your Life: Plan Now

It's undeniably the most stressful time in life. It's not adolescence. It's not looking for that first job. It's not getting married. It's not even living with your teenagers.

It's retirement—when your whole way of life changes overnight, and when life can become traumatic if you have not planned for it. By preparing, however, older people can enjoy a smooth transition. If you or your parents are about five years from retiring, the National Safety Council suggests that you start planning now.

In retirement, what you do with your time obviously will change. Your physical environment may change, too, if you decide to move into a new home. Even if you stay in your present home, you'll need to make some changes to keep it safe as you get older. At this stage of your life, health is just as important as ever, so you may need to make some lifestyle changes to compensate for the effects of aging. Now, while retirement is still several years away, is the time to make those necessary adjustments.

If you start making the changes now, you won't have to think about them later. Besides, you'll be a little older when you retire and tasks that are easy now might be a lot more difficult then.

Age may slow you down, but it doesn't have to stop you. Healthy habits are just as important as you get older, and that means a sensible diet and exercise. If you're overweight, start shedding those pounds now. Consult a physician before you start any exercise routine or change your eating habits—moderation and common sense are the keys to a healthy lifestyle.

Choose a physical activity that you enjoy and stick with it. Fitness and endurance come from exercises that use a variety of the major muscle groups and can be maintained continuously for about 30 minutes. These aerobic exercises include walking, running, bicycling, rowing, and swimming. If you haven't exercised in a long time, be patient, and, once you've been examined by your doctor, start your exercise program gradually. As your fitness level improves, you may be able to get involved in a wider range of physical activities.

Exercise can keep you flexible, strengthen your heart and lungs, and give you the stamina to fight illness. You also may feel less tense, sleep better, and look better. It is best to exercise with a friend, especially if you have had health problems in the past.

Just as you have all of your working life, set goals. The amount of weight you want to lose, the number of miles you walk, the number of laps you swim—establish realistic goals, chart your progress, and move closer to each one.

By thinking about retirement now, you can be ready to enjoy the change right from the start. A safe home and healthy lifestyle can only make retirement more rewarding. And you deserve it! The retirees moved from their meeting place at the Rubidoux Grange Hall to the spacious Aquatorium in the City of Commerce. All 88 members present were most enthusiastic about their new quarters at the February 12 monthly meeting.

The potluck luncheon was prepared by Dorothy Costello, wife of the club's vice-president. Belva Hall, wife of Treasurer Bill Hall, managed the signing and selling of the raffle tickets.

Following the invocation by Belva Hall, UTU General Chairman Earl Clark addressed the retirees briefly, commenting on the UTU's progress in obtaining better benefits. "As long as I'm chairman there will be an increase in pensions in every contract. We won't forget what you gave



UTU General Chairman Earl Clark was the guest speaker at the first RTD Retirees Social Club meeting in Commerce on February 12. The 1987 Club President Bob Miller is standing on the right and Vice-President Jim Costello on the left.

CHIP Goes Over With HQ Employees

The American Cancer Society received an enthusiastic response and a big turn out for their CHIP (Comprehensive Health Information Program) presented at the Headquarters Building during the month of February. In fact, the response to the series of four different presentations was so overwhelming that part of the series will be repeated during the summer. In addition, efforts will be made to present this program to interested divisions. Those managers and/or employees wishing to learn more about cancer prevention, detection, and treatment should contact Luanna Urie at extension 6450.

The American Cancer Society's CHIP Program includes two very special sessions. These sessions are for men only and for women only. The men's session teaches self-examination to detect testicular cancer early, before this cancer becomes a problem. Prostate cancer, symptoms, detection and care, are also covered. For women, the private session teaches self-examination to detect breast cancer in an early stage and symptoms, detection, and care for uterine cancer as well. In other sessions bowel cancer, smoking cessation, cancer in the work place, and ways to prevent cancer are also discussed.

the organization," said Clark. He also mentioned the proposal to establish a transportation zone in the San Gabriel Valley that is supported by County Supervisor Pete Schabarum. "Here we have a county supervisor who is out to destroy the RTD. Schabarum's philosophy is to work people at minimum wage. He thinks this proposal will save money. He doesn't know that he's got a battle on his hands."

Robert Schneider, administrator of the Health and Insurance Trust Fund for the UTU, also on hand, was introduced to the group.

Vice-President Jim Costello asked the members if they would, to donate toward a collection of memorabilia detailing their years of work at the RTD. The group hopes to compile a personal, written history of their work experiences and the development of public transit in Los Angeles.

Join Conservancy in Art Deco Walkabout

The Los Angeles Conservancy presents a new downtown walking tour of Art Deco architecture on Saturday, April 11. The tour explores the decorative splendors of Art Deco, some of it in buildings that have been beautifully restored and others that are undiscovered gems.

The flowering of Art Deco in the late twenties coincided with a period of tremendous growth in Los Angeles, both of population and of business activity. The film industry, oil, merchandising, and finance have left their mark in many early "skyscrapers" which continue to grace the cityscape. Los Angeles has one of the richest collections of Art Deco architecture in the country.

The guided walking tour includes visits to the interiors of many Art Deco buildings downtown. The tour begins at the Design Center on Spring Street and includes the Edison Building, the Oviatt Building, the Garfield Building, the William Fox Building, the Los Angeles Jewelry Center, the Title Guarantee Building, the Eastern Columbia, and others.

The tour begins at 11 a.m.; advance reservations are required. The tour is free for Conservancy members and \$5 for the general public. The April 11 tour will be repeated the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. For reservations or information, call 623-CITY.

RTD Employees Run for Office

While it may be a bit premature to say that a couple of RTD employees caught Potomac Fever, it just may be that they are laying the groundwork. Recently, Community Relations Representative Nell Soto won the nomination in the Pomona City Council primary. She will face Mike Lowe in the run-off election to be held April 21, 1987.

Equal Opportunity Representative Monica Delgadillo announced her candidacy for the State Assembly, 56th District, the seat vacated by Gloria Molina when she assumed her position on the Los Angeles City Council. This special election will be held May 12, 1987. *Headway* congratulates these employees on their courage and may the best women win!

To Your Health Get the Important Message about AIDS

At the end of 1986 the Center for Disease Control and National Institute of Health reported 40,000 cases of AIDS in the USA and more than one million infected with the AIDS virus. No one knows for sure how many of these will come down with the disease or how long it will take for the symptoms to show up.

Meanwhile the disease will continue to spread and the rate of spread will be much faster than how many show up with symptoms. Why? Because the incubation time between infection and actual symptoms can be from five years to as long as ten years.

The high risk groups remain the same — gay men, intravenous drug abusers, and hemophiliacs. But the others at risk are those who need blood transfusions and promiscuous men and women, heterosexual *or* homosexual.

The most important message about AIDS and its spread is that sex can no longer be casual — each person must become totally responsible and be very careful. Yes, that means careful sex — limiting the number of one's sexual partners, knowing your partner, and insisting that condoms be used. Safety in sexual intercourse can be increased by using certain preparations containing nonoxynol-9, which seems to kill HTLV-3 (AIDS virus) rapidly. Nonoxynol-9 is found in some female contraceptive gels and is available over the counter.

AIDS is not spread by shaking hands, or touching objects touched by someone with AIDS. You cannot get AIDS by donating blood. You cannot get AIDS from someone sneezing or coughing on you.



by Elia Hager Visiting Nurse

You can get AIDS if you:

- 1. Share a needle injecting drugs.
- 2. Have casual sex with many partners.
- 3. Have anal intercourse.
- 4. Choose not to be careful with your sex partners.

The Surgeon General recently published a report on AIDS and it may be obtained by writing:

AIDS P.O. BOX 14252 Washington, D.C. 20044

Telephone Hotline: PHS AIDS Hotline 800/342-AIDS; 800/342-2437 National Sexually Transmitted Diseases Hotline: 800/982-5883. En Español: 213/222-SIDA District employees are invited to attend a special session on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the workplace on Tuesday, April 21.

Mr. Phil Scheley, training specialist for the AIDS Project-LA will present this important program. As information related to AIDS accumulates, it is becoming obvious that it is a disease crossing all sexual and economic boundaries. Statistics indicate that each of us will be directly or indirectly affected in the near future unless we become informed now and practice what we know. Come and listen to the latest update on this important subject.

Tuesday, April 21 11:30—12:30 and 12:30—1:30 Headquarters Building Board Room, Second Floor

RTD Goes to the Movies

Radio Days - ****

Why is it that Woody Allen can get away with films that really have no plot whatsoever, but are just collections of memories and incidents? I wish I knew the answer. If I did, I'd be making films like Woody Allen instead of writing this column. Whatever that special spark is, it's alive and well and living in Radio Days, which deals with Allen's childhood memories of growing up in Rockaway, New York, and how the radio affected him and his family. Like his other films, it's difficult to describe, mostly dealing with small incidents which weave together to form a picture of the times. The major thread deals with Allen's family, mainly his Aunt Bea, who's trying to get married, but just can't seem to find the right man, no matter how hard she tries. The other story deals with Sally, an aspiring actress and cigarette girl, who's dying to get on radio. Along with this are finely drawn portraits of radio personalities, Allen's family and friends that he grew up with, all played with impeccable comic timing. The chief stars are Dianne Wiest as Bea and Mia Farrow in an absolutely plum role as Sally. This is the first film of 1987 that's a likely Oscar candidate, and Wiest and Farrow are going to be strong contenders for 1988's awards, just as they were this year. If the truth be known, I like this one better than Hannah and Her Sisters.

Lethal Weapon — **1/2

On occasion, I will admit to having very American feelings for a good guys versus bad guys plot, and a need to see justice and goodness prevail. That's what this film is all about, with Danny Glover as the middle-aged detective who must take on "psychopath" Mel Gibson as his new partner because no one else wants him. From a wary and uneasy beginning, they form a close relationship that develops into a wonderful chemistry. Together, they set out to investigate the apparent suicide of the daughter of Glover's Vietnam buddy, and find themselves over their heads uncovering a drug empire with ties to the upper echelons of the CIA.

As you can guess from the above plot, there's a great deal of violence in this film, including a scene where an RTD-like bus (I mean, the city is obviously LA, and the bus is currently in service) slams into the escaping drug dealer's car and flips it. For once the audience was cheering for us in an accident. This brings up another point, though. While the story is taut and emotionally gripping, and also somewhat cathartic, at the same time it suffers from a gratuitous overload of violence. Between the horrific torture scenes and the fact that the drug dealers are so evil I wanted to join Glover and Gibson with an uzi and get the sleazoids - at what point does it all become too much? If not for that, I would have given this film a higher rating. Still, it's good entertainment, but I would definitely suggest caution and parental supervision with your children on this one.

"The vessel with the pestle has the pellet with the poison, while the chalice from the palace has the brew that is true. But they broke the chalice from the palace, so now they have a flagon; a flagon with a dragon. So the flagon with the dragon has the pellet with the poison, and the vessel with the pestle has the brew that is true."

—The Court Jester, starring
Danny Kaye and Angela Lansbury
This month's column is dedicated to
the memory of Danny Kaye,
1913-1987, star of stage, screen, and
television, ambassador-at-large for
UNICEF, humanitarian. I laughed
when I first saw his films as a child,
and they've kept me laughing
through the years. He will be missed.
— Carolyn Kinkead

Consider This, Next Stop, the RTD Twilight Zone

by Rissa Bernstein

Now, we have all lost our temper once or twice, lost our way around town, and even lost our heads now and then. But honestly, have you ever lost someone else's head?

Believe it or not, here in RTD's very own "twilight zone" (the Lost and Found Department), sit a skull and a bizarre array of articles left behind by passengers hastily exiting buses

No, the skull was not that of someone waiting in an express checkout line. It was left behind by a science student, who inadvertently left it behind on the bus on his way home from school.

He never claimed it.

The skull, which by the way is being returned to the Los Angeles Unified School District, is one of the more memorable items that the Lost and Found staff have chuckled over as they display them on the shelves, drawers, and along the aisles of the Lost and Found center at 5315 Wilshire Blvd.

"We get things in here you wouldn't believe," says Johnnie Amos, ticket clerk at the pass sales outlet that houses the lost articles. "I can't understand how people could get off the bus without them."

Can we talk here? This is serious stuff: wheelchairs, red-tipped canes, even an artificial leg.

"Someone got on the bus with a very large leather suitcase and two huge plastic bags filled with clothes, books and other items," Amos continued. "Now how could he get off the bus not realizing he had left all that behind?"

Lost items are either turned in by passengers or by the operating division from which the bus is deployed. Attempts are made to contact the owner when some type of identification is apparent. Otherwise, the articles sit on display at the center for 30 days, awaiting pickup from the owner. After 30 days the finder is entitled to take the unclaimed article.

Only 30% of items turned in are ever claimed, Amos notes.

"I think that's because most people believe that no one will turn in lost items, especially if they are things of value," she explains. "But it's nice to know there are still a lot of honest people out there."

On the Lost and Found shelves sit testaments to the honesty of many RTD riders—television sets, radios, stereos, cassette players, purses and wallets, many with cash inside.

"Someone found a paper bag with quite a bit of cash in it—\$2,418 to be exact," Amos relates. "It belonged to an elderly woman who had the full care of a disabled brother who didn't trust putting money in the bank. I can't tell you how happy I was to turn over the paper sack to her. It was one of my better days."

Many other items, however, don't have as happy a fate, and here they sit waiting to be reunited with their owners.

So if after a long day you get off the bus and realize you no longer have your baby stroller, flashlight, deodorant, drapes, girdle, rug, beach chair, Bible, handcuffs—handcuffs?—umbrella or your What Do You Want to Know About Guppies? book, just give a call to RTD's Lost and Found Department at (213) 937-8920. It just might be there.

We regret, however, to inform the woman looking for the sister she left behind on the bus that she has not been turned in yet. But if you lost your lower denture, chances are it's the one sitting on the third shelf.



Ticket Clerk Johnnie Amos displays a case of mousetraps left behind on an RTD bus and now housed at the District's Lost and Found Department.

COMMENDATIONS & SCHEDULE CHANGES

COMMENDATIONS

SCHEDULE CHANGES Cont.

Division 1
Foster, Anna E.
Green, Jimi
Hernandez, Daniel
Hughes, D.H.
Novello, George E.
Tapia, Jerry
Villa, Manuel P.

Division 3 Byrd, Thomas J. Correa, Ernest Green, Rachel E.

Division 5
Carroll, Robert
Edwards, Linda M.
Emmons, Zetelle M.
Grande, Jose A.
Hoshida, Milton Y.
Labauve, Rushton I.
Perkins, Robert
Pilgrim, Claude L.
Samuels, Xavier
Victor, David A.
Wedlow, Ricky
Williams, Germaine T.
Woods, George D.

Division 6 Chriss, Marie A. Cook, Barry A. Cowell, Michael J. Ephriam, Charles E. Hill, Thomas P. Winston, Patricia

Division 7
Benoit, Vincent
Craig, Tyrone L.
Dorado, Alberto D.
Foreman, Clyde W.
Hejjawi, Maria H.
Holland, Joe
Jenkins, David V.
Miller, Wilton J.
Porche, Otis, R.
Trevino, Alfonso D.

Division 8 Clancy, F.T. Eskiewicz, Joseph Division 9
Carlyle, Lonnie
Edens, Anthoney C.
Gutierrez, Jose
Mitchell, Warren
Outlaw, Eddie
Rumbada, Kathleen M.
Williams, Ben

Division 10
Alcantar, R.S.
Dawson, John
Hamilton, L.M.
Kensinger, Robert H.
Morales, Nathanael
Patterson, Richard C.
Perez, Narcizo M.

Division 12 Gibson, Darrell R. Nobili, Valerie A. Rogers, Marvin L. Scott, Susan D.

Division 15Pereira, Miriam L.
Sunfield, Nancy
Vaughn, Bill

Division 16 Bailey, Joseph Haley, Edward C. McCrary, Lawrence E.

Division 18 Adger, Joe Allen, Daniel E. Barnes, Elton L. Blair, Alonzo E. Concepcion, Alberto Costeletto, Johnny Foster, Kingsley Francis, Joseph D. Fujioka, Kevin K. Holland, Ernst B. Knight, Debra McHenry, Margaret Murphy, Paul V. Rockward, Dexter Wade, Roy B. White, Corliss J.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Aceves, Timoteo, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Agosto, Harry M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Aguilar, Victor M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Alami, Driss Y., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Alexander, Jimmy D., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Alexander, Theodore T., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Alatorre, Ramon, from Laborer A to Painter Trainee.

Alsdurf, Carolyn J., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Austin, Wilma F., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Azekri, Carlos G., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Barcus, Juanita J., from Stock Clerk to Relief Stock Clerk.

Barr, Robert N., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Barron, Antonio, from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Bell, Jeannette M., from Acting Assistant Equal Opportunity Representative to Human Resources Assistant.

Ben-Yair, Mordechay, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Bevon, Leo J., from Planning Manager to Acting Assistant Director of Transportation.

Blake, Holly L. from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Borcea, Florin, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Briley, Joel K., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Brinkley, William J., from Transit Operations Supervisor to Assistant Division Transportation Manager.

Bueras, Peter E., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Bush, Arlene F., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Byone, Tony A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Caldwell, Michelle, from Senior Training Coordinator to Administrative Services Officer.

Campos, Daniel, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Canate, Bersilio, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Carias, Carlos S., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Carlisle, Eric T., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Castillo, Luis H., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-

Castro, Rogelio U., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Celaya, John D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Ceniceros, Jorge L., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Chavez, Edward M., from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Chavez, Joe, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Combs, Robert W., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Cueva, Juan, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Deboe, Donald D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

De La Paz, Ramon, from Laborer A to Painter Trainee.

Dellosa, William N., from Property Maintainer B to Property Maintainer

Desy, Melvin A., from Senior Equipment Maintenance Supervisor to Refurbish Equipment Maintenance Manager.

Dhillon, Sukhdev S., from Senior Staff Assistant to Transit Operations Supervisor.

Dickey, Ronald J., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Dye, Marcela M., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Dzurisin, Frank L., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Edwa, Robert B., from Truck Driver Clerk to Relief Stock Clerk.

Ellis, Julie L., from General Clerk to Materials Management Systems Analyst.

Escalera, George L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Espinoza, Ruben, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Felder, Michelle P., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Flint, Linda D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Flores, Jerronimo P., from Transit Operations Supervisor to Senior Transit Operations Supervisor.

Flores, Richard D., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Gaitanis, Ruth L., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Galindo, Johnny, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Gallegos, Arthur M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Galvan, Jorge A., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Garcia, Jose, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Gardea, Linda M., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Gates, Barton E., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Gaw, Brian K., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Gilbert, Gary S., from Operator Trainee to Operator. Gilliam, Michael E., from Operator

Trainee to Operator.

Gomez, Eduardo J., from Operator

Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Gonzalez, Manuel, from Operator

Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Gordon, Harriett E., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Gordy, Randolph H., from Electronic Communications Technician to Systems Electronic Communications Technician.

Gray, Terrell A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Green, Luther, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Griffin, Valery D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-

Guardado, Maria, from Operator

Trainee to Operator. **Guerrero, Hector A.,** from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Gutierrez, Emma, from Operator Trainee to Operator. Gutierrez, Jose J., from Operator

Trainee to Operator.

Gutierrez, Ramon S., from Power

Yard Sweeper to Power Yard Sweeper Leader.

Hackman, Frank, from Operator Parttime to Operator Trainee.

Harris, Carolyn L., from Data Entry Operator to Cash Clerk.

Hart, Janice M., from Transit Police Officer Trainee to Transit Police Officer.

Henderson, Edward N., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Hicks, James B., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Huerta, Ronnie L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Parttime

Hutson, John L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Inocencio, Paul D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Jackson, Searcy M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Jimenez, George, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Johnson, Charles A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

SCHEDULE CHANGES & SHIFTING GEARS

SCHEDULE CHANGES Cont.

Jo Jola, Theresa A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Jung, John G., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Kelley, Pamela P., from Word Processor Operator I to General Clerk.

Kilgroe, Kamlin L., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

King, Vaughn L., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Kitchen, Debra R., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Knight, Leola E., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Largaespada, Roger, from Electronic Communications Technician to Systems Electronic Communications Technician.

Larios, Joe L., from Relief Stock Clerk to Storekeeper.

Lawler, Fred, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Lohman, Robert W., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Lopez, Nestor D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Luebs, Janell R., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Luna, Ramon, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

to Operator.

Ma, Shingya, from Operator Trainee

to Operator.

Marrufo, Armida, from Operator

Trainee to Operator.

Martin, Kerry H., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Martinez, Eduard F., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Martinez, Julio C., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Martinez, Max H., from Senior Equipment Maintenance Supervisor to Acting Equipment Maintenance Manager.

Mathis, Michael H., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Mayweather, Anson, B., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

McCoy, Edward D., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

McComie, Joseph H., from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader

A to Mechanic A Leader.

McGlothan, Michael, from Stock
Clerk to Truck Driver Clerk.

Medina, Antonio, from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Mendoza, Donald R., from Stock

Clerk to Storekeeper.

Mize, George T., from Operator

Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Montgomery, Brian B., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Morris, Carrie V., from Temporary Division Stenographer to Division Stenographer.

Morris, Delwin R., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Morris, Lawrence W., from Schedule Checker to Acting Schedule Checker Supervisor. Mueller, Karl H., from Transit Operations Supervisor to Assistant Division Transportation Manager.

Nakatani, Kaysuya, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Nguyen, Dan L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Nowell, Ernest G., from Relief Stock Clerk to Stock Clerk.

Odell, Anne F., from Supervising Planner to Acting Planning Manager — Policy/Guideway.

Onopa, Daniel M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Ornelas, Gustavo A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Ortez, Alecia A., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Owens, Elton L., from Electronic Communications Technician to Systems Electronic Communications Technician.

Pachuca, Gerardo A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Padilla, David R., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time

Parrish, Michael R., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Pedroza, Enrique G., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Pedroza, Raul M., from Junior Engineer to Civil Engineer Assistant.

Peoples, Debiera A., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Phillips, Christine B., from Laborer A to Painter Trainee.

Pinto, Gilbert P., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Plascencia, Guillermo, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Pongos, Salvador T., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Presser, Laurence E., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Price, O. Wendell, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Pulliam, Rosalie A., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Rivera, Leticia E., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Roberts, Reginald D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Robinson, Robbie L., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Rodriguez, Rosario O., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Romero, Thomas W., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Romo, Sergio, from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Rosas, Juan C., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Rose, **Billy J.**, from Mechanic A to Equipment Maintenance Supervisor. **Rose**, **Russell K.**, from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

Roybal, Paul M., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Rucker, Derick L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Rucker, Michael S., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Sanabria, Francisco J., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Sanchez, Valerie, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Sanders, Gail, from Secretary to Acting Staff Aide.

Samaa, Nabeel N., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Saucedo, Nooh, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Scott, Susan D., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Seiler, Walter, from Schedule Checker Supervisor to Acting EDP Scheduling Supervisor.

Sheer, Dan D., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Silva, Ricardo, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Singh, Harbaksh, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Singh, Joginder, from Operator Parttime to Operator Trainee. Singh, Sarabjit, from Operator

Singh, Sarabjit, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Skvarna, Leslie A., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Supall, Louis E., from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

Tabares, Robert R., from Operator

Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Tagger, Claude L., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Talbot, Patricia, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Tanon-Diaz, Gilberto, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Tatum, Jerry L., from Cash Clerk/ Mopper Waxer to Cash Clerk/Relief Vault Truck Driver.

Trevean, Vicki A., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Trevino, Alfonso D., from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Tubbs, Lawrence G., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Turner, Dennis L., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Velasquez, Rodolfo, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Velazquez, Damaree, from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Veloz, Reyes, from Operator Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Walls, William L., from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Watts, Ronald, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Williams, Juanita, from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Williams, Karl J., from Operator Parttime to Operator Trainee. Williams, Tommy J., from Manage-

ment Intern to Acting Contract
Administrator.

Winters, Linda A., from Cash Clerk to Relief Vault Truck Driver.

Whitaker, Jacquelyn, from Operator Trainee Part-time to Operator Part-time.

Woolley, Donald L., from Operator

Part-time to Operator Trainee.

Worrell, Teresa, from Operator
Trainee to Operator.

Wu, Jerry, from Operator Trainee Parttime to Operator Part-time.

Ybarra, Anthony R., from Operator Trainee to Operator.

Zapata, Gary L., from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

Zimmerle, Fred G., from Laborer A to Painter Trainee.

SHIFTING GEARS

Biehn, Donald, an Operator with the District since February 15, 1960, retired February 3, 1987.

Black, Albert Eugene, began with the District December 2, 1975, retired as a Utility A on January 31, 1987.

Breitz, Roy K., an Operator with the District since October 28, 1958, retired on January 31, 1987.

Chambers, James A., an Operator with the District since September 17, 1952, retired on February 21, 1987. Diaz, Leonildes, began with the Dis-

trict May 27, 1975, retired as a Mechanic A on January 31, 1987. Fleming, Arthur D., an Operator with the District since January 30, 1971,

retired on February 3, 1987. Felder, Robert L., an Operator with the District since January 30, 1975, retired on January 31, 1987.

Flyer, Harold, an Operator with the District since October 27, 1972, retired on December 7, 1986.

Lawson, Harold M., an Operator with the District since March 22, 1974, retired January 31, 1987. Leslie, Dillard Houston, an Operator

with the District since June 24, 1958, retired on January 31, 1987.

Lynum, Hamilton, an Operator with

the District since June 21, 1957, retired on January 31, 1987.

Montes, Manuel, began with the District October 1, 1958, retired as a

1987.

Pollack, Fred F., began with the District May 6, 1975, retired as the Risk Financing Administrator on February

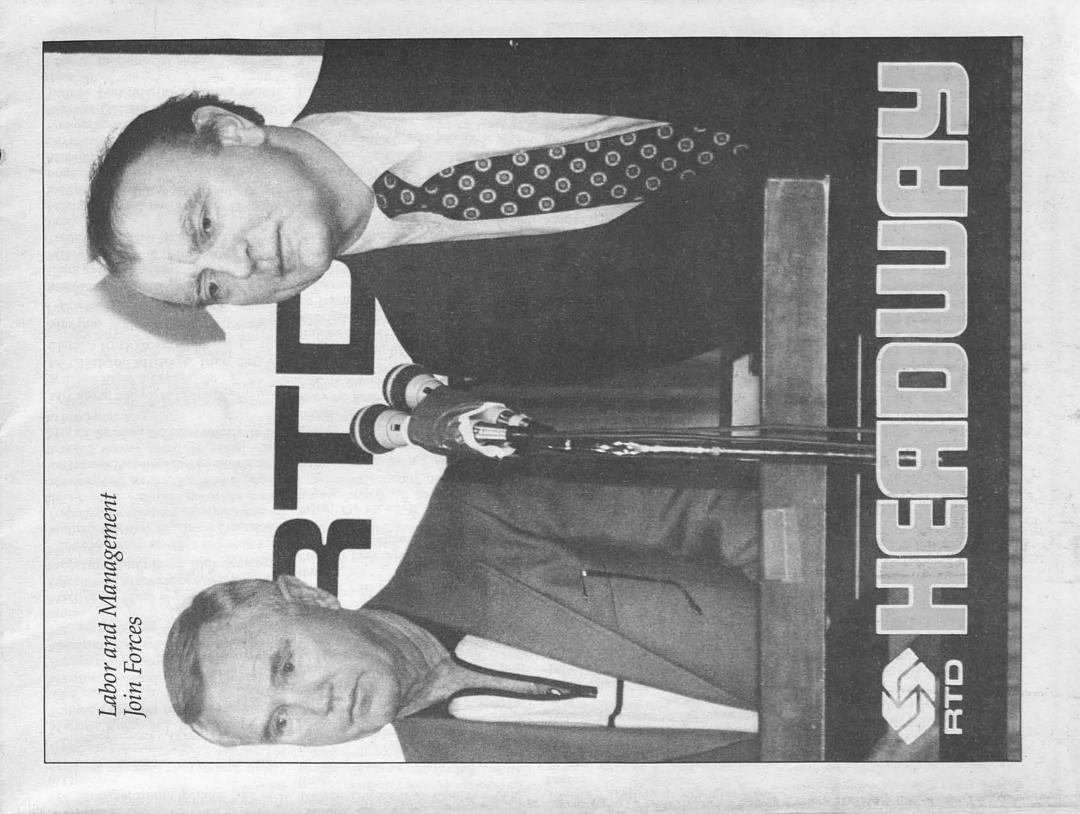
Mechanic A Leadman on January 30,

Powers, Philip B., began with the District September 15, 1945, retired as a Senior Transit Operations Supervisor on January 31, 1987.

O'Regan, Irene A., began with the District May 1, 1974, retired as a Senior Staff Assistant on February 3, 1987. Thompson, Lewis W., an Operator with the District since February 8, 1960, retired on February 21, 1987.

Williams, Roy De Forest, began with the District June 18, 1954, retired as a Traffic Loader on January 27, 1987.







BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE PAID

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