

METRO COACH *News*

DECEMBER 1955



METRO COACH *News*

VOLUME 3 DECEMBER, 1955 NUMBER 1

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OUR COVER

FOR THE FIRST TIME, we're using color—not merely one, but five varieties—on our cover, and we're frankly proud of it, for it marks a step forward in the history of our employe publication. The picture explains itself sufficiently well, we think. All we want it to convey is a wish from the entire staff of the METRO COACH NEWS that your Christmas and New Year may be as colorful as our cover and as happy as Santa Claus looks!

CORRESPONDENTS

Dakin Boardman.....	Van Nuys Division
John S. Burton.....	West Hollywood Division
F. B. Eggeman.....	Auld Lang Syne
E. F. Gilligan.....	Ocean Park Division
Charlie Hill.....	Bowling News
R. D. Hird.....	Investment Club
James H. Hoover.....	Long Beach Division
Paul Kari.....	Claims Department
Jean McGill.....	Hemlines
"The Scribbler".....	Accounting Department
Glenn E. Serres.....	El Monte Division

PHOTOGRAPHY

Harley B. Talbott

Al Rommel

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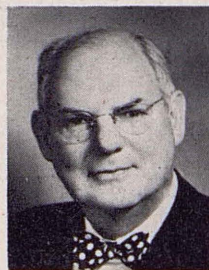
Deadline for February issue: January 30



A Holiday Wish From Our President

TO ALL Metro and Asbury employes and their families, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

My sincerest thanks for the cooperation you have given during the past year. We have moved ahead remarkably because of it, and with it we will continue to progress in the future.



I pray that the spirit of good will may dwell within each of us this Christmastide and remain our guiding light throughout the coming year—and always.

President.



Metro Christmas OPEN HOUSE!



(EXECUTIVE OFFICES - 624 P.E. BLDG.)

FRIDAY - DEC. 23Rd
BETWEEN: 10:30 A.M. & 12:30 P.M.

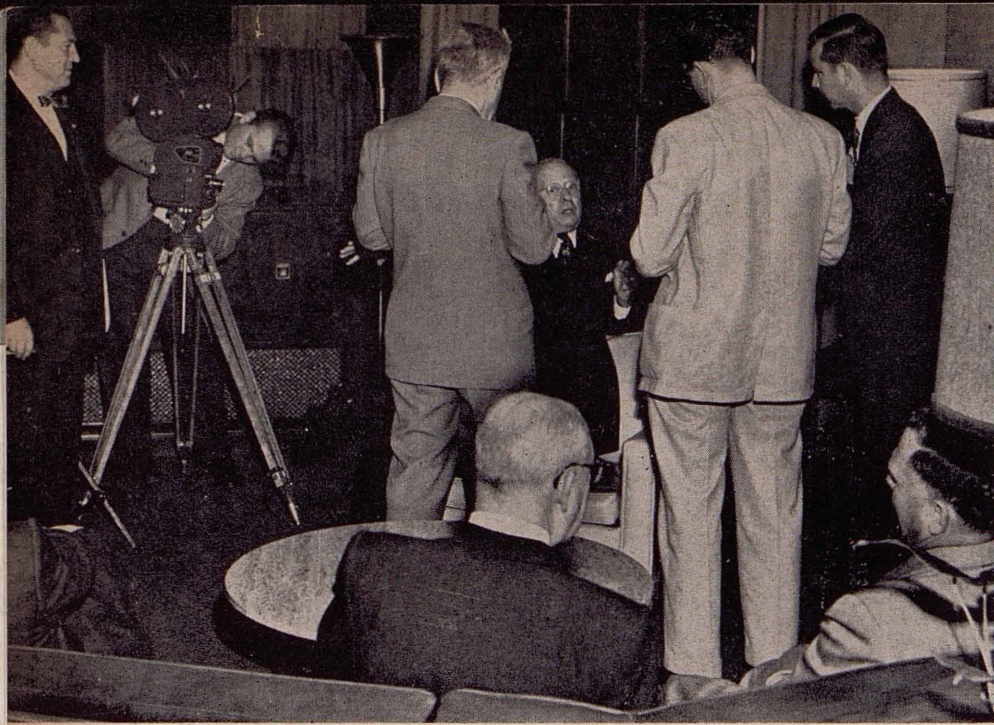
THE ANNUAL "Christmas Open House"

WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, ROOM 624 - METRO EXECUTIVE OFFICES

BETWEEN THE HOURS: 10:30 A.M. AND 12:30 P.M.

ALL EMPLOYEES (METRO-ASBURY) WHOSE WORK PERMITS, AT ALL SHOPS,
TERMINALS AND OFFICES ON THE SYSTEM ARE INVITED.....JOIN IN THE FUN!!!

- REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED -



—Stanart Studio photo.

INTERVIEW at the Los Angeles Biltmore during Traffic Improvement Week with Roswell F. Thoma, president, American Transit Association. Mr. Thoma is seated in background facing our camera and surrounded by reporters from metropolitan newspapers. Questions and answers are being recorded on sound film, which was shown over Channel 4, Television Station KRCA, at 6:45 and 11 p.m. of the same day (Dec. 7) it was recorded. Seated in the foreground with his back to our camera is Metro President J. L. Haugh. Earlier in the day Mr. Thoma made a personal appearance on KNXT, Channel 2, and also recorded a specially taped message for use over Radio Station KABC that day.

GREATER RECOGNITION of mass transportation in city planning for the solution of traffic problems, and a reversal of short-sighted policies that provide "futile and excessive expenditures to accommodate the auto driver" were urged by Roswell F. Thoma, president of the American Transit Association, in a Los Angeles address during Traffic Improvement Week, December 5-11.

Delivering the national keynote speech for this nation-wide observance, Thoma told more than 300 Southern California businessmen, traffic experts, and governmental leaders at a Biltmore luncheon that public transportation is "indispensable" to the solution of traffic problems.

Thoma, who is also president of the Niagara Frontier Transit System, Buffalo, N. Y., was introduced by Robert Mitchell, president of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Traffic Association. Master of ceremonies was John E. Fishburn, Jr.,

chairman of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce traffic and transit committee.

Emphasis on the private auto must be reversed, Thoma said, because it is an invitation for business to leave major retail centers. He said studies in Baltimore and Pittsburgh have proven that today's traffic congestion results in more vehicles, but fewer people in metropolitan areas.

"No matter how much it has expended in quest of a solution to the traffic problem, no city can say it has less congestion today than when it embarked on this costly venture," he stated.

Transit is battling to improve its service—to provide a better and faster ride, Thoma declared.

He praised Metro President Jesse L. Haugh, chairman of the ATA's new bus design committee, for his all out efforts to find a new type of vehicle that will find favor with the public.

But transit also needs the help

Traffic Improvement Week

ATA Prexy Speaks Here

of the community in its efforts to improve service, Mr. Thoma stated.

"If congestion of vehicles grows worse, more and more people will shun the major business centers. They will refuse to brave its time-consuming, nerve-jangling traffic jams, and will refrain from entering central retail districts, either by transit or by their own cars."

As a result of all this, said Thoma, cities will lose business to places more accessible, property values will deteriorate, and taxes for vital city services must be shifted to the home owner.

"Transit is indispensable in arresting this decentralization," he declared. "Recognition of this is essential to public interest, for anything done to improve speed and convenience for the transit rider benefits the city, business interests and the auto driver as well."

Traffic Improvement Week observances in Southern California were sponsored by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Traffic Association and the traffic and transit committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

As guests arrived for the Biltmore luncheon, each received a white "Traffic Improvement Week" ribbon at the hands of Jean McGill, Metro public relations secretary, who had been chosen to pin the badge to each man's lapel as she bade him a friendly: "Welcome."

City Planners Must Stress Transit, Says R. F. Thoma

Radcliffe Honored

MAN OF THE MONTH for safety in operation was the honor accorded Van Nuys Operator L. S. Radcliffe by the California Trucking Associations at a luncheon meeting of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter, National Safety Council, last December 16.



L. S. Radcliffe

Superintendent John D. Puffer

made the presentation.

The award is for safe driving, according to Chief Instructor R. L. Woodrow.

"A committee of the NSC chooses a man from a list of operators' names and driving records submitted by participating companies," Mr. Woodrow said. "Each company submits one name.

"The competition comes from drivers of 217 fleets of buses and trucks totaling 21,958 units, which roll up over 36 million miles in Southern California every month.

"Mr. Radcliffe was chosen for the month of September. For 25 years—his entire period of employment with PE and Metro—he has never had a chargeable accident, and he has carried over two million passengers without a single injury during this time."

Anne Wins Jack-Pot!

ANNE SWANSON, secretary to the manager of the personnel department, surprised herself and delighted all her friends by winning over three hundred dollars in the Mirror Cash-Word contest, early in December.

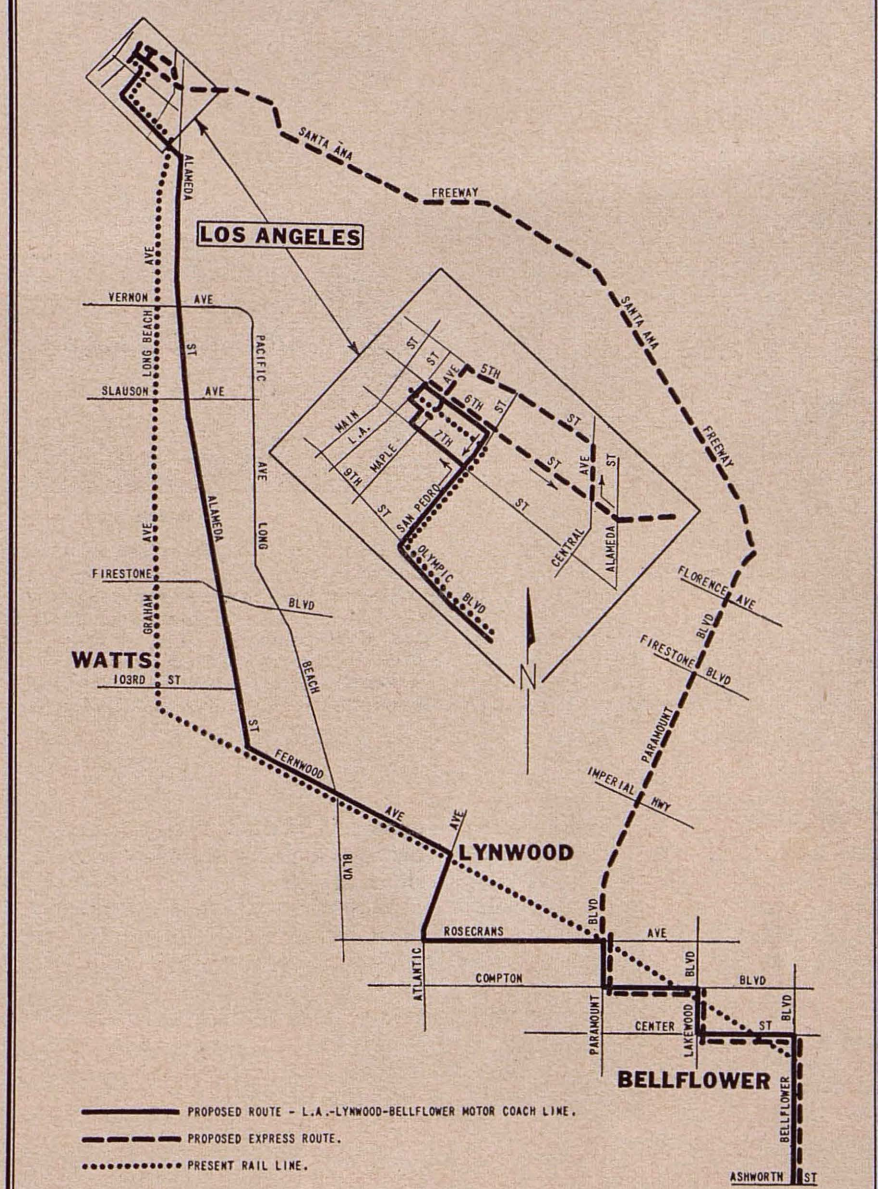
Having always had a fondness for word puzzles and the like, Anne has been working the Lucky-Word contests in the Times—but this is the first time she ever hit the jack-pot, she said.

Polio isn't licked yet!

Join the **MARCH OF DIMES**

January 3 to 31

Bus For Rail On Bellflower Line

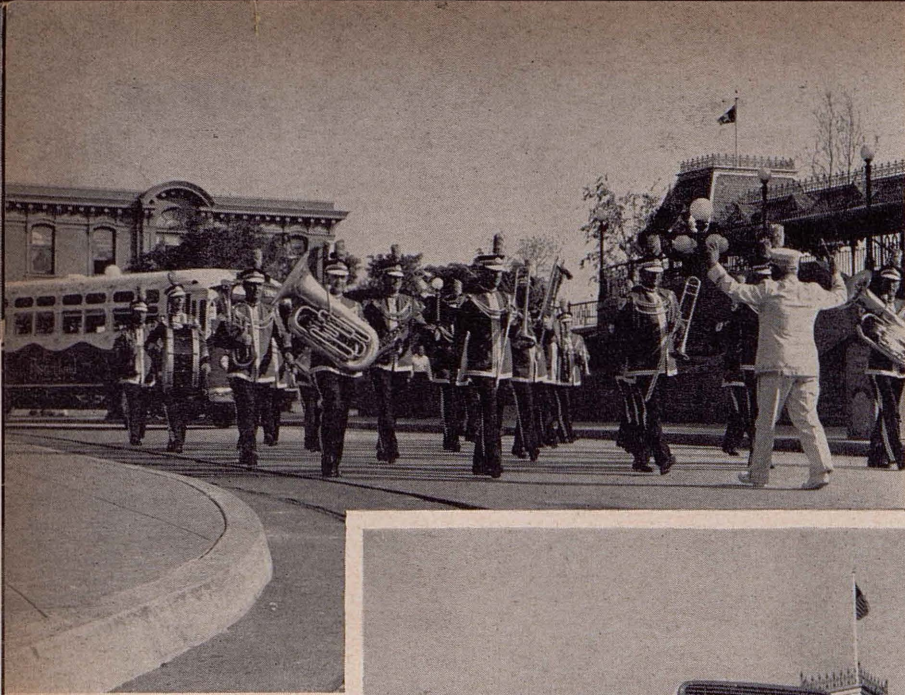


THE MAP ABOVE shows the routes of a motor coach line proposed to replace the present rail line between Los Angeles, Lynwood, and Bellflower.

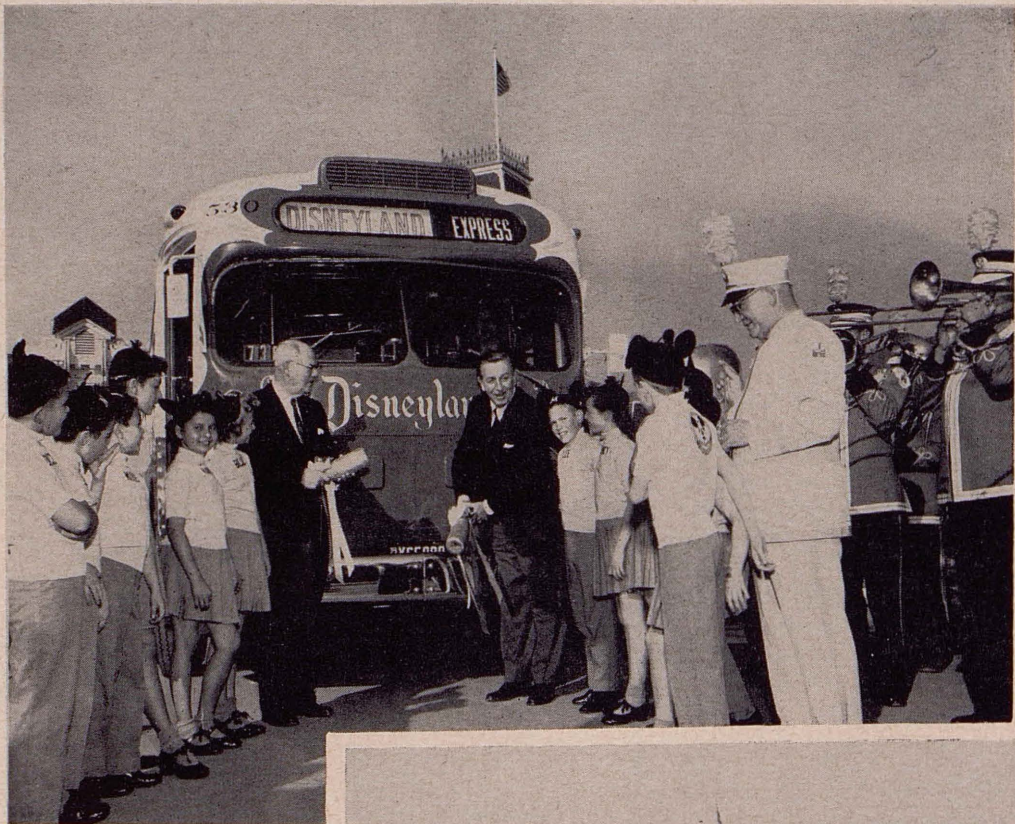
The proposal was submitted in applications filed with both the State Public Utilities Commission and the Los Angeles City Board of Public Utilities and Transportation on Monday, December 12.

Under the proposed routing, all passengers on the line would receive expedited service, with greater frequency of schedules than at present, and with no change in fare. Four inbound and four outbound express schedules a day would be available to Bellflower residents. The company would operate 13 air-suspension coaches of 48-passenger capacity on the line.

The changeover to bus would enable Metro to reduce expenses on the line by \$45,250 a year and thus place it on a break-even basis. Rail cost is \$1.27 a car mile on the line, as compared with 58.9¢ a coach mile.



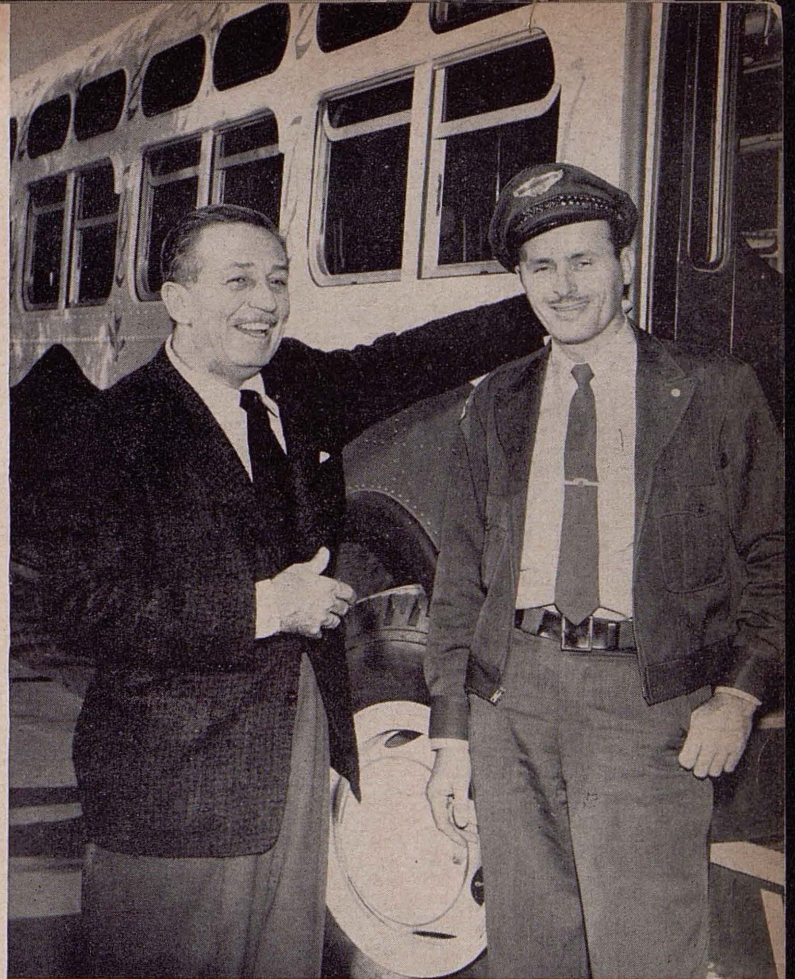
THE BAND came out to play . . .



... FOR THE CHRIS-
TENING of Metro's newly
painted Snow White
Coach . .

AT DISNEY-
LAND last November 19,
to herald the introduction
of the coach into regular
service between Los
Angeles and the Anaheim
playland.





OPERATOR R. L. HARTER had a good time . . .

. . . with some of the Mouseketeers . . .

. . . and talked to Walt Disney himself.

"SNOW WHITE" JOINS METRO SERVICE!

RIDES OF ENCHANTMENT to the land of fable became real on Tuesday, November 22, when Metro's newly decorated "Snow White" coach went into service for magic journeys to Disneyland. First operator to take the bus on a regular schedule was *Sandy E. Gee* (see pictures on next page).

Dedication ceremonies at Disneyland's "Town Square" the previous Saturday afternoon brought charm and pageantry to hundreds of visitors as the coach, operated by *Robert L. Harter*, glided in from "Main Street, U.S.A.," preceded by the 16-piece Disneyland band.

Moving up to the Disneyland "City Hall," the bus stopped, and was greeted by *Walt Disney*, himself, and Metro President *Jesse L. Haugh*. The first load of passengers ever carried by the coach then alighted—12 lively boys and girls of the TV Mouseketeer group. As they came out, the boys each received a handshake from Messrs. Disney and Haugh, and the girls, a fatherly kiss.

Without a christening, no dedication is complete, and so, while the band played "Whistle While You Work," and the children sang, the two presidents together swung bottles against the bumper, and water from the "Rivers of the Americas" flowed.

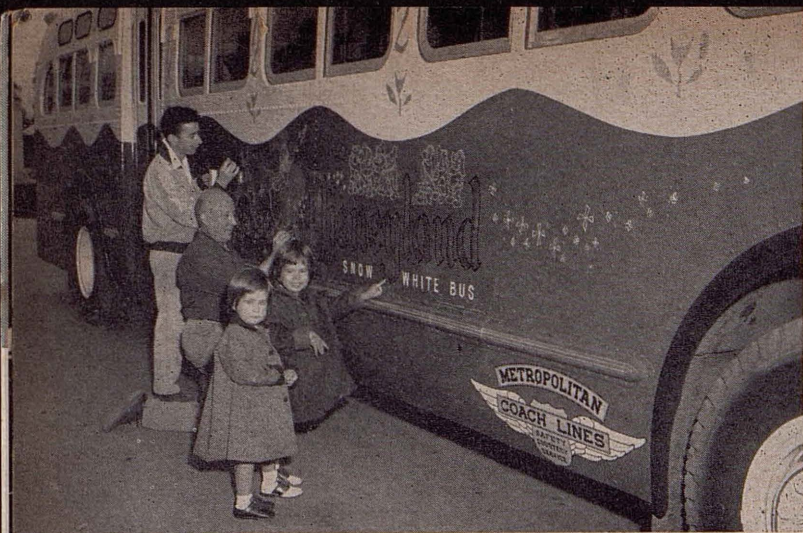
During all this action, the Mickey Mouse newsreel photographers were grinding away and recording it all with their motion picture cameras. Metro photographer *H. B. Talbott* also recorded, in motion and full color, choice bits of the entire action, in addition to making, as did several other photographers, many black and white stills.

The picture-taking started the week before in Burbank, at the Disney studios, where scenic artists transformed the bus exterior by painting the body in magenta under the windows, with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs painted in line on the magenta, and a large gold "DISNEYLAND" on each side of the coach. The words, "SNOW WHITE BUS," are painted in black on the sides and rear.

An extra attractive touch is that wheels have been painted white, with a pretty design in various colors on spokes and hub. Inside the coach, car cards have been replaced by large photos of Disneyland scenes.

When the painting had been finished, Operator *Frank E. Harris* was asked to bring his family to the studios for publicity pictures. This he did, with the pleasant results as shown on the next page.

Used regularly on the 9:45 a.m. express between Los Angeles and Disneyland, the coach will also be available for charter trips to the fairyland.



SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS being applied to the Disneyland coach as Beverly, 4 (pointing), and Susie, 3, daughters of Operator Frank E. Harris, watch. Painters are Disney scenic artists Arthur Camp, left, and Tony Reveles (head artist).



"PUT US ON THE BUS, DADDY!"—So obliging Daddy obeys.



INSIDE "SNOW WHITE" COACH—Disney background artist Jacques Rupp installs a series of photos in car card advertising racks as Metro Supervisor H. F. Fortner watches.

THE SNOW WHITE COACH

PAINTING PUBLICITY PASSENGERS

FIRST REGULAR SCHEDULE—Operator Sandy E. Gee loads startled-looking groups of Disneyland-bound passengers at the Los Angeles Street terminal on Tuesday morning, Nov. 22, for the 9:45 express schedule. This is the regular daily schedule for the coach.



ALL ABOARD—Sandy gladly hands this cute little boy aboard first schedule as Mamma holds out her arms.



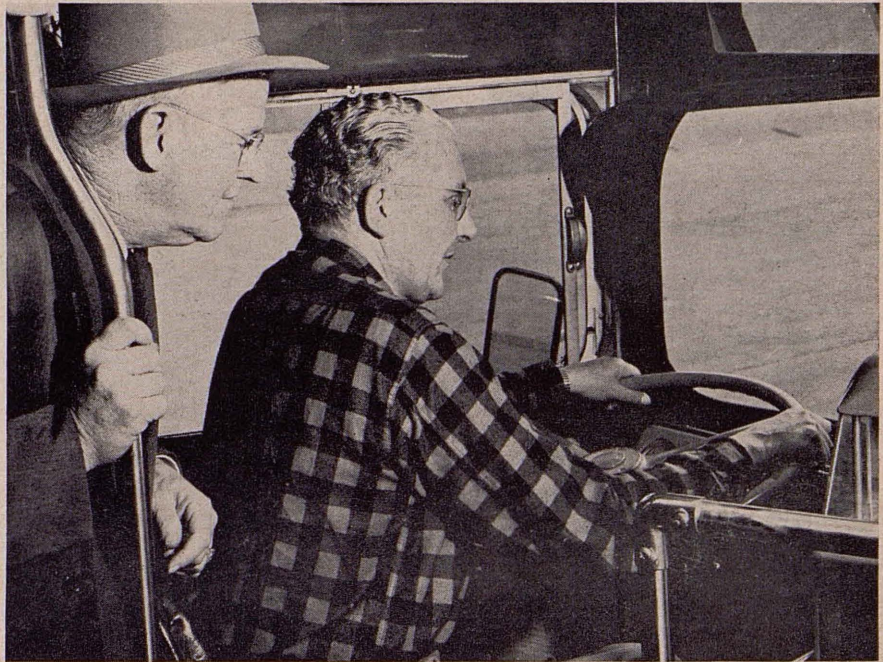
150 DMV MEN TAKE METRO DRIVER TESTS

DRIVER TRAINING TESTS on Metro's test course in the Los Angeles River bed were taken by 150 driver examiners of the Department of Motor Vehicles during November.

The DMV examiners not only learned how Metro operators are given the detonator test for reaction time and the steering test for good driver judgment, but also participated in the tests themselves as part of their driver examiner training.

The training was undertaken by the State Department in a move to train all its 300 driver examiners in California in methods of testing drivers on heavy equipment. A similar program was undertaken in Northern California at about the same time, according to *Frank E. Helfrey*, motor vehicle representative for the DMV, who spearheaded the training drive in Southern California.

Metro co-operated with the Department by providing the test course, a coach, and the services of Chief Instructor *R. L. Woodrow* and his assistants. Also on the scene were a large diesel refrigerator truck, as well as gasoline-powered rigs, including a full truck and trailer and a tractor and semi-trailer.



STEERING TEST being taken by *Frank E. Helfrey*, one of the top examiners of the State Department of Motor Vehicles, as Metro's chief instructor, *R. L. Woodrow*, watches. Mr. Helfrey was only one of the 150 examiners who took the Metro driving tests in order to gain better understanding of how to give bus and truck driver tests.

"This co-operative enterprise was mutually helpful to both the DMV and the Metro instruction department," pointed out Mr. Woodrow. "It revealed to us the general trend of DMV thinking on the subject of

driver examinations, and it made the DMV aware that we have a strong program of operator training. And of course it's always a fine thing to become acquainted with workers in related fields."

AIR TEST CHAMBER IMPORTANT TO SMOG CONTROL

"AMONG ALL the jobs that lie ahead of us on the road toward victory over smog," recently said *Dr. Lauren B. Hitchcock*, president, Air Pollution Foundation, "the construction of an air resource test facility we consider foremost."

He said plans are now being drawn up for a testing chamber, completely equipped with controls and instruments, by the department of engineering at the University of California at Los Angeles, with the co-operation of the Air Pollution Control District and the Air Pollution Foundation. This chamber is intended to provide accurate and reliable information as to the importance of various atmospheric

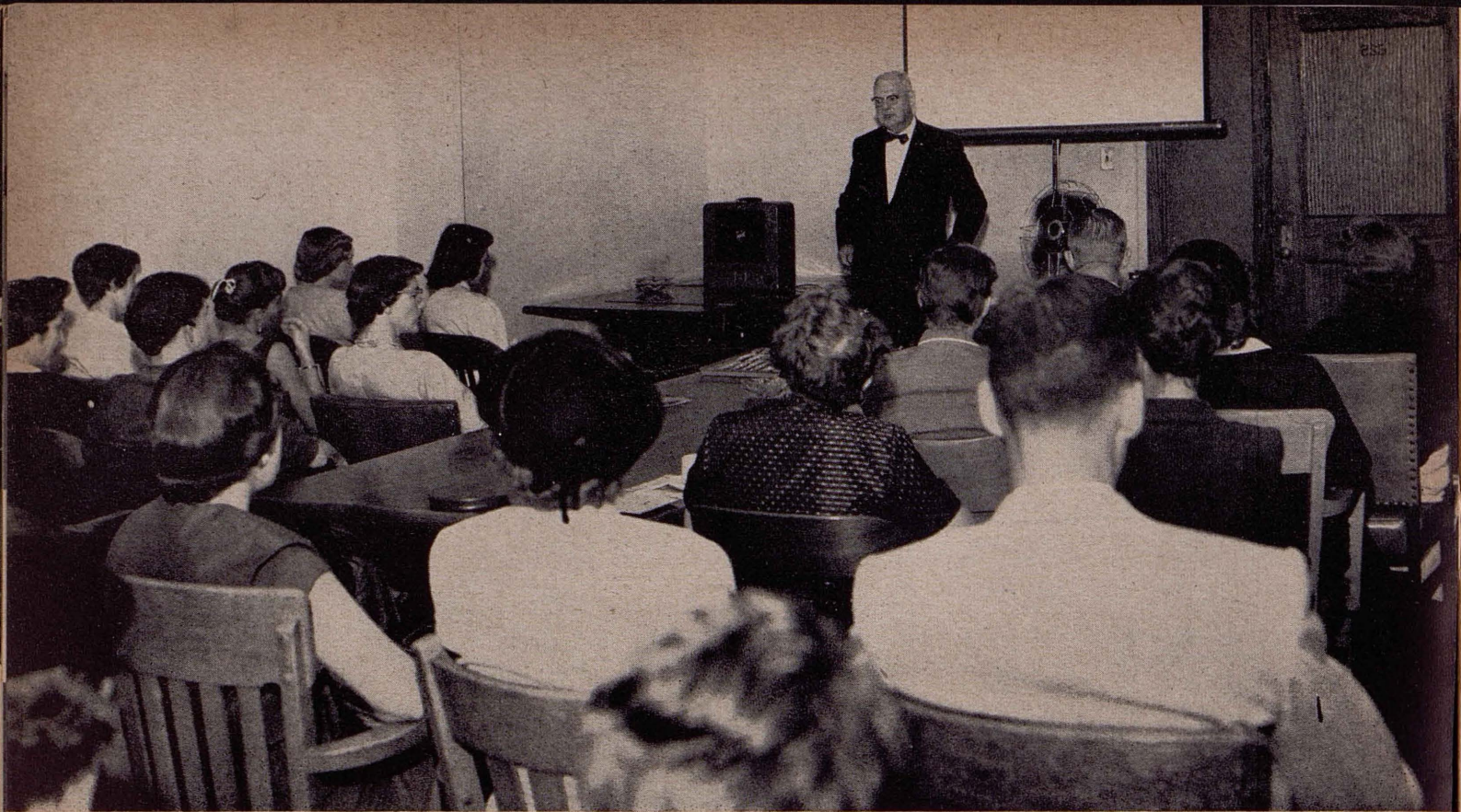
pollutants and how much smog will be reduced or eliminated by any one or more of them.

"Of perhaps greater importance to us," he concluded, "would be our ability to test the various remedies that have been and will be suggested. In this way, the public would be assured that any remedy

recommended to it or required of it was workable, worthwhile and economical."

He numbered among the Foundation's achievements during the past year the investigation of alternate motor fuels, such as alcohol, liquefied petroleum gas, alcohol-gasoline blends and fuel not containing tetraethyl lead. He said devices had been evaluated for control of unburned motor fuel in the auto exhaust. The Foundation developed or helped to develop continuous, around-the-clock measuring instruments for air contaminants; it focussed attention on the need for continuous monitoring of pollution.





PRESIDENT J. L. HAUGH ADDRESSES TEACHERS from Long Beach who came to visit Metro on B-I-E Day, November 9

B-I-E DAY

35 L. B. TEACHERS TOUR METRO

"SAFETY is our primary concern, and our accidents are down substantially because of the co-operation of our drivers in the company's program of safety."

President *J. L. Haugh* so informed a group of 35 Long Beach public school teachers who were guests of Metro and toured our property on Long Beach's B-I-E (Business-Industry-Education) Day, November 9.

He touched on several topics while the teachers were gathered in the president's board room on the sixth floor.

Metro has spent more than \$6 million for 265 new coaches, "Cadillacs of the bus field," and has erected new terminal and garage facilities at Van Nuys and El Monte. Substantial improvements have been made at Macy Street, and a new \$400,000 facility is under way at West Hollywood, he pointed out.

"And we're seeking further substantial improvements," he asserted.

Steps in the mutually co-operative effort of Metro and the Air Pollution Control Board to reduce smog were described by Vice-President and General Manager *R. F. MacNally*. Careful maintenance on all coaches, both gasoline and diesel, has greatly reduced visible smoking and has also cut road failures "way down," he said. Fageol degassers have been installed

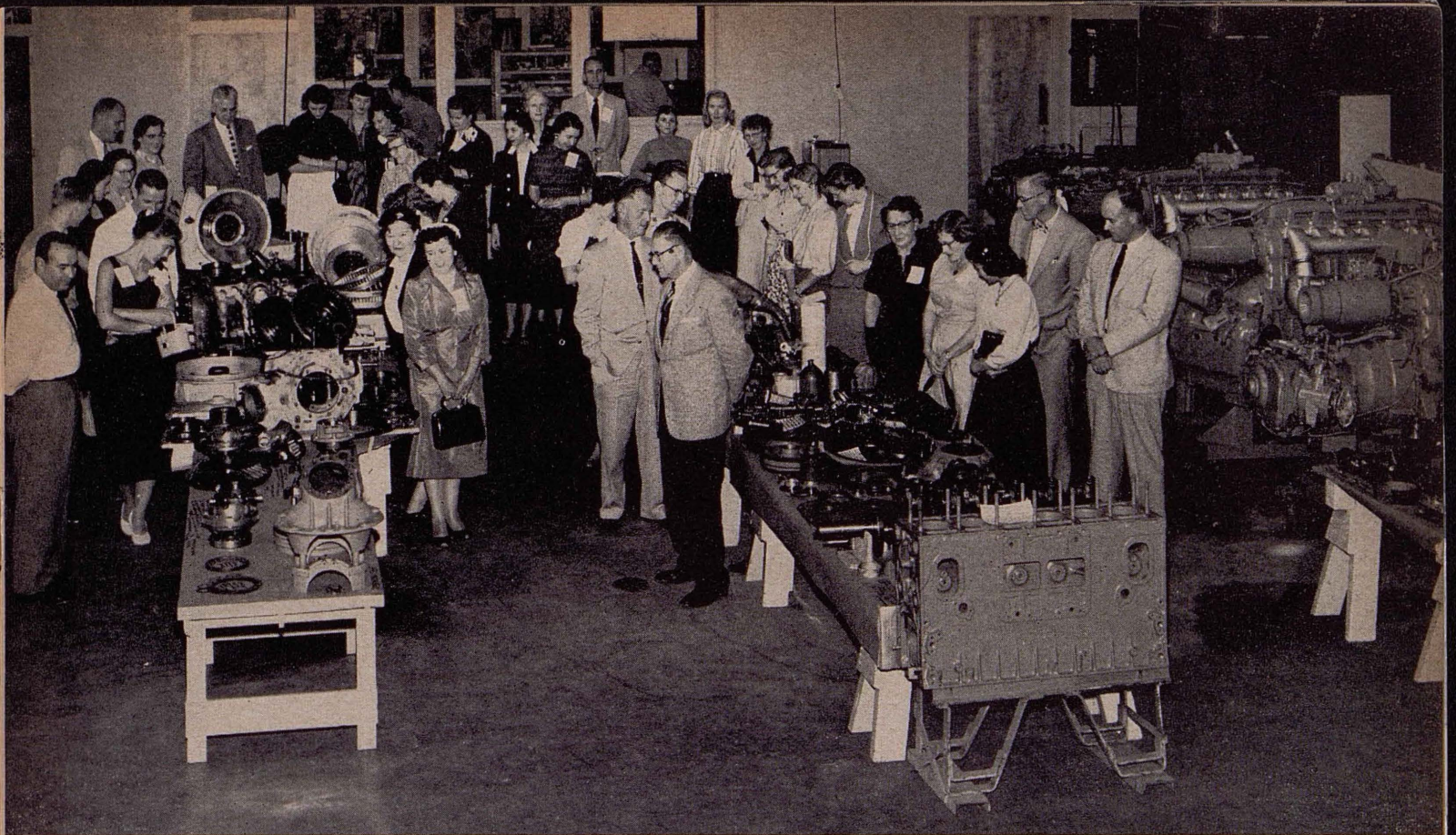
on all gasoline coaches. A special diesel fuel, refined to a water white color, and developed for diesel engines in Metro motor coaches, is used by Metro because it has been found to be especially free from smog-producing components, he told the teachers. Exhaust gas tests by outstanding chemical engineering firms have given Metro diesel coaches "a clean bill of health," in the smog picture, he stated.

After a description by Auditor *E. H. Uecker*, of Metro's IBM system of accounting, the teachers were shown the new GM film, "Let's Go to Town," which describes the vital part transit has in maintaining the health of downtown business districts.

The most spectacular part of the visitors' tour was a trip to the Macy Street Garage, where a complete display of all the 2200 parts of a motor coach had been set up and labeled on long tables by *Carl Cross*, foreman of the unit overhaul shop, and his men. Mr. Cross interestingly and enthusiastically described some items to the guests.

George Wells, supervisor of maintenance service, took them on a guided tour of the other sections of the garage.

In general charge of the day's tour was Public Relations Director *R. O. Christiansen*, who, with the help of Operator *F. L. Wright* and a Metro coach, met the group at the Long Beach Junior College, briefed them



HOW MANY PARTS TO A BUS? — This question was answered for the Long Beach teachers by Carl Cross, foreman of the unit overhaul shop at Macy Garage, in the form of a display of 2200

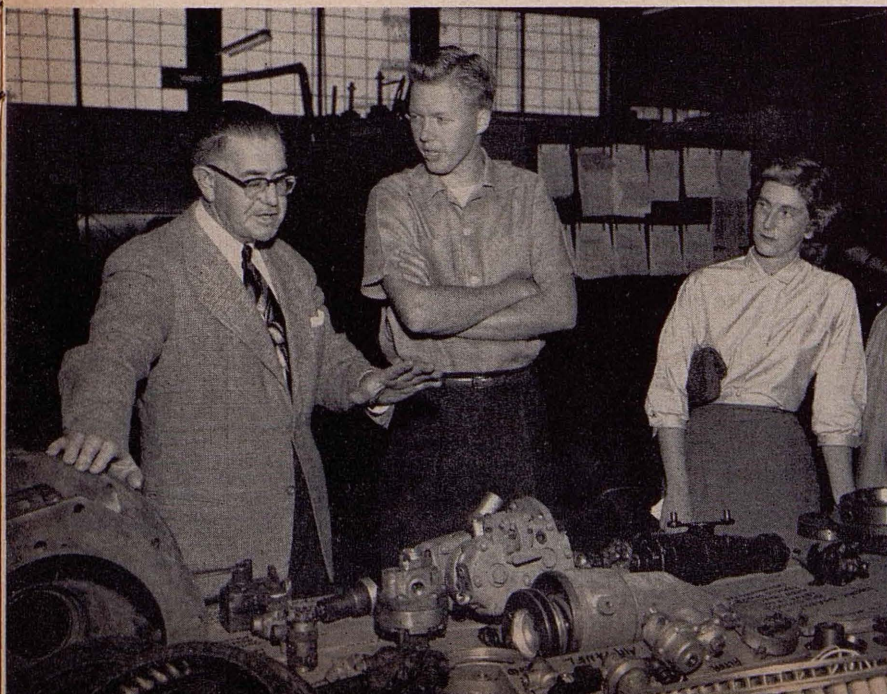
shining clean parts carefully laid out with descriptive labels on long tables. When the teachers arrived on their tour, Carl and Supervisor of Maintenance George Wells lectured to them.

on the day's activities, took them to lunch at Little Joe's on North Broadway, went with them on the tour, and saw them back to Long Beach at the end of the day.

Expressions of amazement at the scope of Metro operations, as well as of appreciation for the effort by Metro to instruct and entertain the group, were voiced by the teachers.

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION layout of parts is explained by Mr. Cross to Reed Patterson, shop teacher at Stephens Junior High, Buena Park, and a lady teacher who appears to have a mechanical turn of mind.

INJECTOR OPERATION is explained by Mr. Wells to Miss Rose M. Radovitz, of MacArthur School, Long Beach. She was in charge of the tour for the teachers.





SAFETY PENNANT is raised over Long Beach Division headquarters by Supt. John D. Puffer as Safety Committeeman

L. E. Neal and Division Foreman R. W. Krafft (both in front of flag), President J. L. Haugh (hat in hand), and others look on.

PENNANT TAKEN BY LONG BEACH

IN FRONT OF the Long Beach Division is a new flag pole. From this pole flies the safety pennant, a symbol of safe operation over a period of three months—this time the three months ending October 31. Long Beach is as proud of its operators, who made winning the pennant possible, as the operators are of winning this award.

By J. H. HOOVER

Operator *Louis E. Neal*, recent man - of - the - month, accepted the safety pennant on Tuesday, November 22, on behalf of operators, from Metro President *J. L. Haugh*, with company officials, operators, and their families looking on.

"You have done remarkably well in winning the pennant," said President Haugh to Long Beach men in presenting the flag. "Your record of 1.59 avoidable accidents in 100,000 miles is . . . equivalent to one accident in 70,000 miles, or three times around the world without an accident."

Division Foreman *R. W. Krafft*,

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE—Some of those who helped organize and run the pennant-raising party and could be gathered together for a picture. From left: Operator *L. E. Neal*, Time-keeper *Pat Delagrave*, Operator and *Mrs. G. W. Lautenschlager*, and Janitor *Miguel Escota*. The two dollar bills *Mr. Neal* and *Pat* are flaunting—actually third prize cake money for *Mrs. Coulson*.

CAKE CONTEST WINNERS—First place was won by *Mrs. Helen F. Johnson* (inset), whose husband, *Johnny*, a.m. leader switchman, *Morgan Yard*, holds the cake. Second place: *Mrs. D. E. Gillespie*, left, wife of the *Watts* motorman. Third place: *L. E. Neal* holds the cake for the winner, *Mrs. J. V. Coulson*, wife of the p.m. leader switchman at *Morgan*. She was absent.





HUNGRY RUSH for refreshments started after the flag-raising.

greatly pleased with the honor the men have brought to the South, expressed his appreciation to them by saying: "Without their dead level best efforts, we never could have won it."

Supt. J. D. Puffer, while complimenting the men, also told the ladies present that the Long Beach Division "owes its accomplishments to the women behind the men."

A luncheon party was given afterwards by the public relations department with approximately 150 persons in attendance. Thanks are expressed to Local Chairman and Mrs. W. C. ("Tex") Aldrich, Timekeeper Pat Delagrave, Operator and Mrs. G. W. Lautenschlager, Division Clerk and Mrs. Lyle K. Annis, Janitor Miguel Escota, et al, for their efforts in preparing for the

party and making it a great success.

One of the highlights of the social function was a cake-baking contest in which several of the operators' wives participated. Although all of the cakes were delectable, first prize of \$5 was awarded to Mrs. Johnny Johnson, wife of the a.m. leader switchman at Morgan Yard, for her artistic pink-and-white creation, featuring a miniature trolley and bus as its decoration. Second (\$3) and third (\$2) prizes went, respectively, to Mrs. D. E. Gillespie, wife of the Watts motorman, and Mrs. J. V. Coulson, wife of the p.m. leader switchman at Morgan.

The program was covered by a staff writer of one of the Long Beach papers.

(Long Beach news cont'd on Page 23)

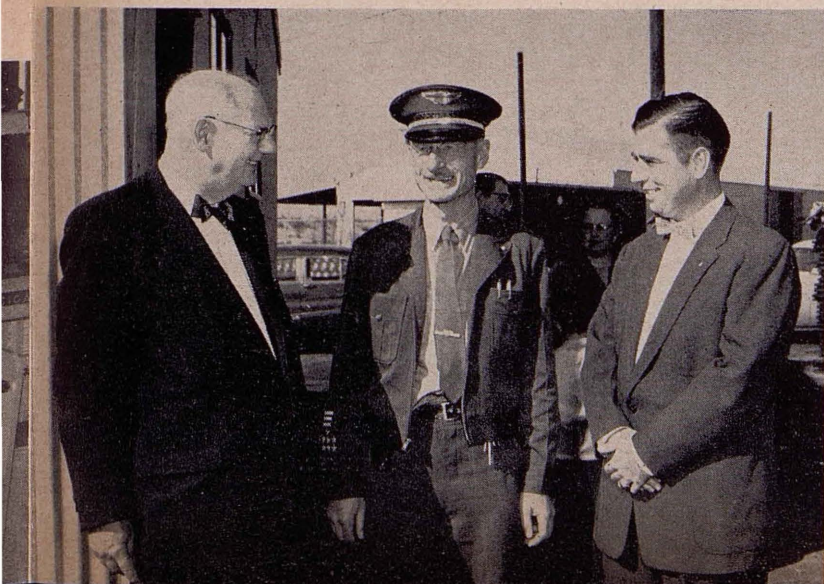
SAFETY STANDINGS

August, September, October, 1955

Division	Frequency of	Miles
	Avoidable Accidents Per 10,000 Miles	
Long Beach	.159	1,070,813
El Monte	.174	1,611,732
Van Nuys	.181	885,185
Ocean Park	.307	873,999
Glendale	.315	608,740
West Hollywood	1.757	888,069

TOP MEN TALK—President Haugh, left, top man in company, and Division Foreman R. W. Krafft, right, top man at Long Beach, talk with Operator W. A. Toenjes, top man in seniority in the division and second from top on company's operators' roster.

SHAKING HANDS with the president is Dale William, son of Operator (holding baby daughter, Dalene) and Mrs. (in front of her husband) D. F. Hamilton. With Dale is his sister, Gale Angeline. At right, Pat Delagrave holds little Deborah Annis.



"GOOD WILL TO MEN"—COMMEND

Operators—All Districts

R. L. Allen: Out-of-towner grateful for kindness and helpfulness in answering questions.

C. M. Brenner: For courtesy.

C. J. Brown: Courtesy and efficiency admired by patron.

W. G. Burnham: Epitome of courtesy, and helpful beyond duty.

M. S. Chapdelain: San Franciscan impressed by outstanding courtesy, consideration, and driving ability.

H. C. Colberg: Kindly interest appreciated by passenger.

E. L. Combs: Splendid handling

of B/O coach en route appreciated by management.

O. F. Cooley (four letters): (1) Passengers appreciate careful manner of starting and stopping. (2) "... handles himself like a gentleman with the 'difficult Los Angeles public.'" (3) Elderly patron appreciates way of calling stops. (4) Attention and courtesy make trip home seem shorter.

E. D. Coughenour: Handled difficult situation in manner worthy of his position.

L. D. Erickson: Answers all questions—many and frequently banal—with pleasant, friendly attitude.

J. B. Fisher: Courtesy and friendliness appreciated by visitor.

B. J. Goodwin: Passenger for past twenty-one years impressed by politeness and careful handling of passengers and equipment.

F. H. Graham: For exceptional courtesy.

Frank E. Harris: Co-operation in obtaining publicity pictures very much appreciated.

J. F. Hatton: Performs duties in courteous and efficient manner.

E. C. Hawkins: Thoughtfulness in returning lost glasses appreciated by passenger.

Joseph Heaney: One of the finest drivers on any line in Los Angeles.

P. D. Jenkins: For helpfulness in assisting blind man.

W. R. Kerst: When car turned in front of coach, for avoiding bad accident.

C. H. Killgore: "... quiet, an excellent driver, and a real credit to the organization."

Joe Krietzman: Courteous, congenial attitude toward passengers.

R. F. Lamb: "Courteous and certainly an outstanding customer relations man."

G. S. Leroy: Returned lost handbag to home of patron.

J. E. Lewis: Very courteous.

W. K. Lewzader: For courtesy and helpful assistance.

E. P. Linkroum: Alertness and efficiency in avoiding what might have been a serious accident.

L. E. May (two letters): (1) Very pleasant and cheerful to everyone. (2) Pleasant, courteous, obliging driver.

R. J. Miller: Patron impressed by pleasant attitude and helpfulness.

B. H. Morris: For extreme courtesy and helpfulness in recovering lost purse.

P. J. Murphy: "... extreme courtesy and safe driving."

R. H. Nissley: Interested in seeing everyone gets excellent service.

R. F. Ostrander: Patron, also speaking for 30 other passengers, pleased by courtesy and efficiency.

A. C. Panzariello: Very courteous.

E. R. Purtyman: Rewarded as expression of appreciation for honesty in returning lost purse.

ORCHIDS TO THE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

7736 Aldea Ave.
Van Nuys, California
October 28th, 1955

Dr. F. N. Tyroler*
Santa Fe Coastline Hospital
610 St. Louis St.
Los Angeles, California

Dear Dr. Tyroler:

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how much I appreciate the wonderful care my husband has been receiving at the Santa Fe Hospital. My husband's praise of the kindness, courtesy, and care he has been shown is unlimited.

Don and I never had the slightest idea or dreamed that in return for the small amount he paid out each month, he would receive such excellent care. If he had gone to any other hospital, his care thus far received would have cost him hundreds of dollars. We are sure there must be many other contributors to the hospital plan who do not realize what they receive when they need it. You may rest assured, that from here on out, both of us will be very strong boosters for the Santa Fe Hospital.

My load might have been heavier as I started to the office each day, if I hadn't known that my husband was getting far better care than I could have given him at home. I am humbly grateful.

A great deal of praise and thankfulness goes to all the nurses, nurses' aides, doctors, internes, etc., for their dedicated services to the sick. Please extend our sincere thanks to all of them.

Sincerely,
**EDWARD L. DONALD, Room 203
and EMMA LOU DONALD

*Dr. Tyroler is chief internist of the Metro-PE Hospital Association.

**Mr. Donald is a Van Nuys operator who has been with Metro and PE since 1934. The writer of the above letter is his wife.

NDATIONS

W. V. Rathbone: Kind and courteous.

F. H. Richart: Rewarded for honesty and promptness in returning lost camera.

C. Z. Sams: Consistently careful, accommodating and pleasant.

F. G. Scarlett: General Telephone Company appreciative of efforts during charter move.

P. G. Seide: For holding temper while being berated by patron.

O. V. Selig: By Surrey Club of Anaheim for being cheerful, efficient, co-operative, and a wonderful driver during charter move.

G. E. Serres: "... one of the most perfectly relaxed and pleasant persons I've ever seen."

S. C. Swanson: Most courteous, helpful and kind to his public.

N. D. Thompson: For outstanding courtesy and good service.

C. C. Townsend: Very nice and helpful to strangers, as well as to regular patrons.

S. C. Utz: Very polite, kind, and considerate.

A. M. Venlet: Passenger very grateful for return of lost purse.

R. M. Welborn: By Surrey Club of Anaheim for being cheerful, efficient, co-operative, and a wonderful driver during charter move.

Hollywood Bowl

TWO OCTOBER LETTERS from Hollywood Bowl officials to President *J. L. Haugh* congratulate Metro folks for their help in providing fine transit service to the Bowl this past summer.

"We cannot begin to express our appreciation for your help in making such a large civic project as the Hollywood Bowl a great success," wrote *William Severns*, Manager, Hollywood Bowl Association.

"I know that I speak for everybody on the staff at the Hollywood Bowl in our thanks and appreciation for the wonderful co-operation of Metropolitan Coach Lines," wrote *Patton S. Moore*, traffic coordinator for the Bowl Association.



LEATHER WORKING is a favorite hobby with Operator *Allen E. Akers* of the Fairfax Avenue line. Here he is shown stamping a design in a wallet he is making. At right are some of the beautiful wallets, key cases, and belts he has made. Also box of dies. "Nice pastime for rainy weather," says Mr. Akers. He's made several for Xmas presents.

Leather Tooling With Allen Akers

SEE Operator *Allen E. Akers*, of the Fairfax Avenue Line, if you want to find a lovely Christmas gift. He makes beautiful fine-leather billfolds, key cases, and belts in his spare time.

"It's a nice pastime for rainy weather," he observes.

It was a woman's influence that got him interested. His wife took up the craft something over a year ago, and that got him tooling.

"I'd had three years of lettering at Frank Wiggins, and that helped me along, too," says Allen.

Materials to buy consist of a supply of leather, either morocco or cowhide, depending on your taste, some leather lacing, and a kit of tools. Liner leather—usually split cowhide—is also necessary.

"You can buy a quarter hide of cowhide for \$5 or \$6," he says, "but your kit of tools, including a cowhide hammer, cutting tools, and

dies to use for stamping designs on the leather, costs around \$100."

So far he has made about three dozen billfolds, two dozen key cases, and a dozen belts. He figures it takes about a day, all told, to make a wallet.

Steps in making a billfold are: 1. Cutting out the back. 2. Dampening it with water and then hand tooling a design on it. 3. Gluing the liner to the back with a special glue. 4. Gluing in the pockets, which he buys already made up. 5. Punching holes for the lacing around the edge. 6. Lacing the billfold. 7. Cleaning the leather. 8. Waxing and polishing the back of the completed wallet.

If you like the clean smell of good leather and enjoy doing things with your hands, follow the example of Mr. Akers and calm yourself down after a hard day at the wheel by making a wallet for a friend.

T. C. Wiley: Courteous, helpful attitude.

T. J. Zito (two letters): (1) One of the nicest, most courteous, obliging and best-natured bus drivers. (2) Kind, courteous, and polite to everyone.

Other Commendations

J. W. Butler, dispatcher: For finding lost glasses.

Robert G. Gibson, agent, Pomona: For efforts in connection with charter move.

Phil Henley, supervisor: For returning lost glasses.

F. L. Nuzum, stationmaster: Eastern Star delegate grateful for return of lost purse.

Frank J. Screech, traffic representative, for his "wonderful co-operation" in helping a charter move for the Sherwood Oaks School, Encino. "We have only great words of praise for all your company," wrote the lady in charge of the trip—to Disneyland.



"POP" IRISH RETIRES — White-haired Asbury Operator Stanley L. Irish receives parting gift of pen and pencil set from tall L. F. Hutchison, BRT Lodge 385 president, and Thomas Arnott, Asbury manager of operations, acting jointly for fellow-workers.



RETIREMENT CAKE is presented by its maker, Mrs. Robert Melton, wife of the Sunland operator, to Mr. and Mrs. Irish.

HAPPY RETIREMENT WISHES were the order of the day at a gathering in West Hollywood Division headquarters honoring the retirement of L. W. Capps, terminal foreman (holding gifts), after 32 years of service. At Mr. Capps' left are Jack Stewart, assistant superintendent; Glenn Banta, West Hollywood division foreman; and C. A. ("Bud") Stukey, former PE motorman. In rear are, from left, H. R. Dearborn, retired terminal foreman; Floyd Cox, operator, and John S. Burton, division clerk. Gifts included a Remington deluxe electric razor and a fine wallet containing a sum of money.

BON VOY

Ex-Supervisor Retires

FROM conductor to assistant chief supervisor until poor health forced him to lessen his responsibilities to those of terminal foreman is the 32-year story of the career of kindly *Lester W. Capps*, whose work spanned the period from March 10, 1922, to November 15, 1954.

Born in 1894 in Illinois, he married *Mary Frances Shive* in 1915. The couple have a daughter, *Virginia*, and a son, *Lester, Jr.* For 30 years Mr. Capps has lived at 9020 Dicks Street, West Hollywood.

"Pop" Irish Turns In

AT 65, the first Asbury employe ever to retire as a result of reaching the age limit, *Stanley L. ("Pop") Irish* put in his last day of work October 29 as an operator on the Hollywood - Glendale - Pasadena line.

He's proud of the fact that he never had a chargeable accident or a missout in his 27 years of service.

He plans to move to Santa Barbara and take "long walks along the ocean," with his wife, *Winifred*.

41 Years for Lee Merriman

FORTY-ONE YEARS of service with PE and Metro ended November 10 for *Leo D. ("Lee") Merriman*, leader in the rail car mainte-





LEE MERRIMAN (hatless, center front), leader, rail car maintenance, on the Viaduct, is honored with a farewell gift of money by Dirk Anraad, rail car maintenance foreman at Long

Beach, Watts, and 6th and Main. The gift was presented on behalf of friends and co-workers on Lee's last day of work, November 10, which terminated 41 years of railroad service.

AGE, OLD-TIMERS!

nance department on the Viaduct, with a little surprise party (see cut).

He started for the San Bernardino Valley Traction Co. as a car repairer in Redlands in 1909, came to PE in 1919, and was wrecking foreman at Macy from 1919 to 1936.

Bonham Likes Travel

"I'VE GOT two fishin' outfits waitin' for me to retire," said Operator *Virgil B. Bonham*, of the Sixth and Main Terminal, as he finished his last day of work on Columbus Day, October 12.

That day is significant, because Mr. Bonham, like Columbus, likes to travel. As a Navy man before World War I, he wandered all over the world, and would like to go back to Alaska. He loves nature, and experiments with exotic plants.

He began his PE work as a conductor on the Edendale line in 1926, following service in both the Navy and the Army. He had an Echo Park shuttle run for 19 years, on both rail and bus, until his retirement.



Virgil Bonham

PSL Riders Miss Pat

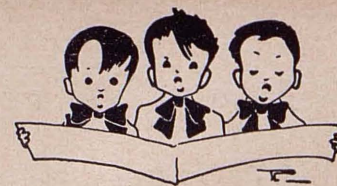
ALMOST 31 YEARS of service with PE as well as three years of previous service with the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit haven't much softened the Irish brogue of Pasadena Operator *Patrick J. Murphy*,

who put in his last day with Metro last October 28. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, at an unspecified time, and had two years of college there before coming to America. His passengers all miss his brogue and his courtesy.

SON OF IRELAND GIVEN FAREWELL PRESENT—Pasadena Short Line Operator Patrick J. Murphy stands behind the fine suitcase, can of tobacco, and unwrapped gifts of a pipe and a tie as some of the donors look on. From left are Dan Cotterman, Harry L. Woodford, Murphy, O. E. Wheeler, C. B. Lewis, and H. C. Woodie, at Pasadena Garage.



VARIETY LINES



Dodge Gets Award

AN AWARD OF MERIT was presented to Operator *Leonard S. Dodge* by the Hollywood Sertoma Club at its meeting on Thursday, December 8, at Lyman's restaurant on Vine Street.

The award was made in connection with the Sertoma Club's campaign for safety in driving. Bumper strips with the slogan, "Slow Down after Sun Down," were placed on Metro's Hollywood and other western district coaches during the week of November 21.

The citation read: "The Sertoma Club, in co-operation with the Police Department and the National Safety Council, is pleased to present this certificate to Leonard S. Dodge in recognition of the efficient and courteous manner in which he has met his responsibilities as a driver."

It is signed by *H. W. Sullivan*, deputy chief of Los Angeles police and in charge of the traffic division; *William Walker*, president of the Sertoma Club; and *J. T. Blalock*, president, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, National Safety Council.

Superintendent of Transportation *John D. Puffer*, who attended the ceremony with Mr. Dodge, had this to say:

"The transportation department staff selected Mr. Dodge to receive this award on the basis of his record as one of the finest operators on the system."

Social Security Offices

CHANGES IN LOCATION of several Social Security offices in the Southern California area make it seem worthwhile to print the correct addresses of those which Metro employes may have reason to visit:

Glendale: 308 S. Brand Boulevard
Hollywood: 1612 N. Cahuenga Boulevard
Huntington Park: 2554 Zoe Avenue
Inglewood: 353 E. Queen Street
Long Beach: 1318 Pine Avenue
Los Angeles: 836 S. Figueroa Street
Pasadena: 30 N. Lake Avenue
San Bernardino: 1110 "E" Street
Santa Ana: 810 N. Broadway
Santa Monica: 1531 Third Street
Van Nuys: 4623 Van Nuys Boulevard

Transportaires

CHRISTMAS MUSIC is in the heart of each of the 35 members of the Transportaires as the Christmas season approaches.

Under the leadership of *Annette Ness*, and with the piano accompaniments of *Pauline Nisbet*, the group was scheduled to sing Christmas music at the Rivera Dads' Club Dec. 2; the Pasadena Civic Auditorium with the Southern Pacific Band Dec. 15; the Metro Coach Depot at Sixth and Main Streets, Dec. 19 and 21 (for commuters at 5 p.m.); the Union Station at the civic center, Dec. 19; and the Santa Fe Hospital, Dec. 20.

The Transportaires are also looking forward to a more generalized program on Jan. 10, when they will sing before the Alhambra Business and Professional Women's Club; and Feb. 25, when they will sing in competition with other groups at the industrial chorus festival to be held at Los Angeles Junior College auditorium at Atlantic and Brooklyn.

"We hope for a large audience to root for us at the industrial chorus festival," says President *Jack Ryland*. "Employes and their friends are heartily welcome to attend."

El Monte Blood Donors

FOURTEEN El Monte division men donated their blood at the Red Cross Mobile Unit center set up at the El Monte First Methodist Church on October 18.

Seven gave for immediate use of an employe who had gone to the City of Hope: *W. K. Barham*, *R. F. Slocum*, *F. W. Lenard*, *H. R. Harrington*, *J. M. Lindsey*, *G. A. Asher*, and *J. S. Ryan*.

The others donated for credit with the Metro-PE Blood Bank. They included *R. G. Curnutt* (division foreman), *R. J. Miller*, *J. W. Kipp*, *P. D. Jenkins*, *J. R. Conk*, *J. E. Owens*, and *J. F. DeWatney*.

Another mobile unit will visit the Church of the Nativity, on North Tyler Avenue, El Monte, on January 11, from 3 to 7:30 p.m., advises the Alhambra chapter, American Red Cross.



AWARD OF MERIT being presented to Operator *Leonard S. Dodge*, second from left, of West Hollywood Division, by the Hollywood Sertoma Club. From left are *John D. Puffer*, Metro's superintendent of transportation; Mr. Dodge; *James H. Piefer*, Sertoma vice-president; and *George Watts*, traffic safety director, National Safety Council.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Accounting Department

KEY PUNCH OPERATOR: Mary E. Charters.

SORTER-CLERKS: Nicole Sainson, Patricia E. Davis.

MAIL & FILE CLERK: Thomas J. Conway.

TYPIST-CLERK: Sue Wright.

Claims Department

AGENT: Michael L. Marchante.

Maintenance Department

AUTO REPAIRERS: John M. Bleier, Jr., Sanford D. Jefferson, Alexander Sprout.

CLEANER-OPERATORS: Floyd Demus, Moises Hernandez, Jr., Frank L. Villalobos, Jarrel D. Demus.

HELPERS: Tommy R. Jones, Edward R. Quintana.

AUTO MACHINIST: Eugene F. Moreno.

Traffic Department

ASSISTANT SCHEDULE SUPERVISOR: James H. Taylor.

TYPIST-CLERK: Donald A. De Tuncque.

Transportation Department

OPERATORS: Wallace W. Isaacs, Harold A. Stewart, Elroy J. Schweitzer, Larry D. Menges, Frank L. Kincaid, Robert J. Belden, James D. Buchanan, Albert C. McClain, Jr., Donald B. Hawk, Charles R. Strong, Byron D. Brower (ARTS), A. J. Surman (ARTS), Earl R. Chizum.

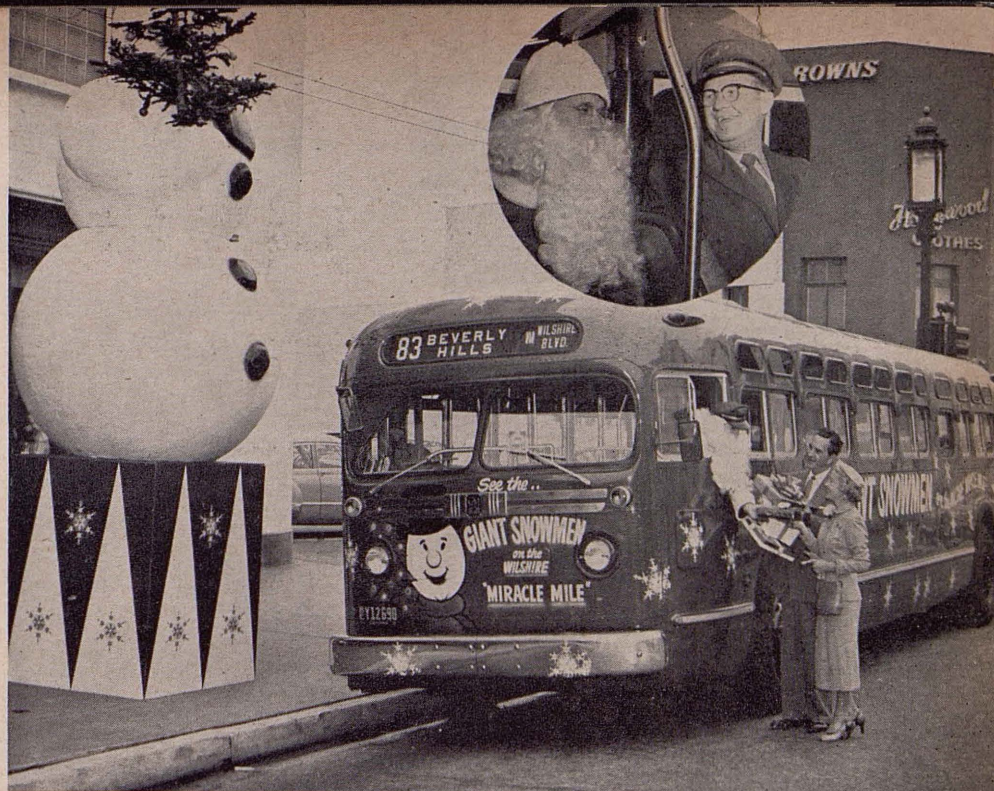
RED CAP: Baker N. Hatchett.

MECCA Gives \$10,500

MECCA, through its administrative committee, voted a contribution of \$10,000 to the Community Chests and \$500 to the Multiple Sclerosis Fund at a meeting held October 6.

The Community Chest contribution was apportioned to various cities according to the number of MECCA members living in each community.

Metro, Asbury, and Pacific Electric employes are eligible to join MECCA. Dues are 50c a month.



THE MIRACLE (MILE) OF CHRISTMAS — From a Metro coach painted Chinese red with white snowmen, Santa, wearing a Metro operator's cap, hands out gifts to Tulley E. Brown, president, Miracle Mile Association, and Lee West, representing the sales force of the Miracle Mile stores. Inset, the real operator, J. L. McKane, of Sixth and Main, laughs with Santa at the humorous by-play. The bus was placed in service on west lines December 5. Normal green and white colors will be resumed after Christmas.

MCNews Wins Award

COMPETING with other employe magazines published along the entire Pacific Coast, the METRO COACH NEWS was awarded in October first place for the best sports story submitted in an annual contest sponsored this year by the SCIEA (Southern California Industrial Editors Association).

The pugilistic exploits of Torrance Sheet Metal Worker Jackie Byrd provided the original material for the winning story, "Meet the 'Champ,'" which appeared in the October, 1954, issue.

Credit for writing the story goes to Miss Bettelou Schick, at the time a graduate student in journalism at UCLA workshopping with the Metro public relations department for experience.

"The story was well-written, the art was well-displayed, and the . . . layout was excellent," was the judge's comment.

Editor W. Warren Silliman and Mrs. Silliman journeyed north to San Francisco to accept the award, which was made at the annual Pacific Coast Conference of Industrial Editors at the Fairmont Hotel, October 18-21.

Lady! What You Said!

YOU PROBABLY SAW this intriguing story, which recently made the rounds of most of the country's newspapers, but just in case you didn't, we reprint it here:

"Driver Francis Hartlove brought his bus to a quick stop in Baltimore when a female passenger cried:

"Wait! Hold everything until I get my clothes off!"

"Hartlove spun around in his seat.

"The woman, fully clothed, finally managed to get her bundle of laundry through the rear door and off the vehicle."

Polio Patients Need Help!

Join the

MARCH OF DIMES

January 3 to 31

Within Our Family Circle

YOU BE EARNEST AND I'LL BE FRANK

By J. S. BURTON

WORK HAS STARTED on the new facilities at West Hollywood Division. Workmen have been busy grading and leveling the ground preparatory to pouring the foundation and building the new operators' quarters and division office for West Hollywood. All the latest innovations will be in the plans, including automatic coach washer and cleaner. The men at this division point are eagerly awaiting the day when work will have been completed and the signal given for us to move into our new building.

To the old-timers, the present building presents memories of by-gone days when we had five-cent streetcar fares, three-car trains to the beach, rails all the way down Santa Monica Blvd. to Ocean Ave., the Sherman Cut-off, and a good nickel cigar.

We are the proud possessors of a double-urn coffee maker. By arrangement with a local coffee distributor, we have had installed a new coffee urn capable of furnishing us with ten gallons of the elixir at a time. A local doughnut house brings us five dozen doughnuts, five dozen pies, and two dozen breakfast rolls each morning, and by noon the cupboards are bare. One round trip on Sunset or Wilshire is good for three or four doughnuts and a couple of cups of the delicious brew.

Mr. J. M. Van Meter, who has been on leave of absence since May 27, 1955, has returned to work. Mr. Van Meter is working a regular assignment on the 91 line. Men of the division welcome him back on the job.

West Hollywood is constantly trying to instill into the minds of its men the importance of avoiding accidents. Our division foreman, Mr. Glenn Banta, spends much time and more patience than is ordinarily possessed by most men in explaining, drawing diagrams, investigat-

ing, and counseling with the operators in an effort to make the men cognizant of their responsibility.

Christmas is right here on us. With the holiday season comes increased travel, more questions asked, more transfers to punch, and an added opportunity for each man to be courteous. Show the kind of metal you are made of by returning a rebuke with a smile and a cheerful word.

For Courtesy and Neatness

West Hollywood Proudly Presents
Kenneth J. Rogers



MR. ROGERS is a comparatively new employe, but already he has won for himself and our company a host of friends. Always alert and willing, he finds working with the public and his fellowmen a pleasure. Surely, it is a pleasure to work with him.—J.S.B.

May we at West Hollywood take this opportunity to wish all of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

STROLLIN' THROUGH THE PARK

By E. F. GILLIGAN

YOUR CORRESPONDENT, while strollin' this month, bumped into Santa Claus, who showed me the following things in his bag:

For our new division foreman, Al Tieman, a perfect accident record.

For Division Clerk A. B. Marshall, no missouts.

For Timekeeper Martha Falbaum, no correction slips or errors to correct, and a saucer of milk for her cats.

For Receiving Cashier Jo Kightlinger, no overs or shorts for the next year.

For hefty Operator Glenn ("Bubbles") Sadler, a bottle of reducing pills.

For "Bubba" Weatherly, a good trip to Texas.

For "Skip" Herman, some nights without walking the floor with the newborn.

For George Pollard, another oil well (with oil).

For S. P. McGee, the Grand Knightship of the SM K of C.

For Pete Reed and B. O. Wickman, some redwood fence paint so they can keep their joint houses in the best shape.

For Rollie Armes, a better job for Dottie, so that he can build that other house faster.

For Joe Krietzman, G. M. Levitt, and Art Rosenblum, one dozen bagels.

For Farmer Geno, plenty of eggs from the chickens.

For B. B. Brinker, sport shirts all year.

For Roger ("the Lodger") Forsythe, some gas pills for when his baby son fills the gas tank with water the next time.

For Jim Bellone, good fishing all year.



SOUP'S ON!—Four views of soup kitchen at operators' quarters in Watts, showing: (1) U. L. Smith, operator who started the idea, drawing himself a cup of coffee (note the padlocked box used as a kitty); (2) J. W. Cutler lunching on some soup; (3) J. M. Gustafson opening a can of soup; (4) E. W. Pont inspecting cupboard full of supplies kept up by Operator Smith.



Soup Kitchen A Going Concern At Watts

"WE STARTED about August, 1954, with an old washing machine to hold pop and ice," declared Operator Upton L. ("Smitty") Smith, as he described the soup kitchen he started for the benefit of fellow-operators at the Watts terminal.

"Then 30 men put in \$3 apiece for a pop machine, and from that

time it boomed," he continued. "Everyone has been paid back for his original investment."

Smitty should know—he keeps all the books.

"Occasionally we declare a dividend of free coffee, free doughnuts, and sometimes free pop. One day last summer, we gave away 138

bottles of pop."

Refreshment facilities include a coffee urn, Heinz soup kitchen (serving not only soup, but also other canned foods requiring heating on the electric sauce pans provided), a pop machine, and a large cupboard full of canned foods such as juices, soups, milk, beans, etc.

For *Bill Todd*, a tripper and run at least four days every week.

For "*JW*" *Jeffus*, and his lovely new bride, a long and happy marriage.

For *Hank Miller*, a new alarm clock that will pick him up and stand him on his feet and aim him at the barn.

For *Jim Bauer*, another set of twins (next January).

For *P. D. Proud*, some sleep.

For *Knud Henrichsen*, many happy and safe miles on his new job as a co-pilot for Pan-American Airways (and a pretty stewardess every trip).

For *Tony Zito*, some mustache

wax.

For *C. L. Sullivan*, *Homer Kerley*, and "*Buster*" *Freas*, off Saturday and Sunday all year.

For *E. R. Halacz*, some clicks on his geiger counter.

For *C. A. Cardwell*, a run that works only in Brentwood.

For *Barney Geist*, one Sunday without a missout or a man going sick.

For Division Clerk "*Hap*" *Dunlap*, no changes to make on the work sheets, and for *J. T. Tucker*, no more daily summary of hours worked.

For *L. D. Erickson*, a set of major's leaves, and to everyone a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

To get to more serious business, the New Look has hit Ocean Park. During December, the OPBS has gone into the coffee and doughnut business, with the installation of a coffee maker and the necessary implements to make it a success.

Ocean Park successfully evaded the SD day trap and completed the day without an accident, which caused much swelling of chests and patting of backs. *Al Tieman* had that proverbial cat-that-swallowed-the-canary look, as a result of this fine bit of operation.

Guess that's all for this time, and if I missed anyone on the Christmas list, it was because I couldn't see everything.



INFORMATION BUREAU SWITCHBOARD was moved to new quarters on the mezzanine floor last October 8, in order to put clerks in closer touch with both the radio dispatcher and the division foreman, both of whom have adjoining offices. From left are Edna Tilley (chief clerk), Barbara Hagan, Adeline Lofton, Louise O'Conner, Elsie Thomas, and Isabel Ash. A system of staggered shifts, 6:30 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, also employs other clerks not shown. The switchboard was moved from Room 731.



By GLENN E. SERRES

YOUR SCRIBE would like to take this opportunity to wish you an old-fashioned MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Old-fashioned, yes. Remember when we were taught as youngsters, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"? The busy world seems to forget we celebrate Christmas because two thousand years ago "God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son (to die on the Cross) that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Today, Santa Claus is a far cry from the St. Nicholas who, because he knew Christ as his "personal Savior," gave gifts to commemorate our Lord's birth. Don't be deceived—there is a lot of old-fashioned giving to underprivileged people in our country and abroad that isn't put before the public eye.

I can tell you the story of three children who asked their dad to take the money he intended to spend on them and send gifts to the children of a missionary family

in South America who wouldn't have lovely Christmas gifts.

We know you, too, will have a HAPPY NEW YEAR if you have a part in giving to someone that you know will not be able to give you a present in return.

DIESELEERS, "Diesel - Dears," and the families will hold a Christmas party in the division headquarters on Sunday, December 18, from 3 to 6 p.m. Santa Claus will be there with gifts for all children present, and gifts will be taken to children at the Sister Kenny Hospital (for polio victims in El Monte). There will be refreshments for old and young alike.

This month (December) completes a ten-month-old birthday for the Dieseleers, whose numbers have grown to approximately two hundred and thirty-five. Congratulations are in order for the fine job Bill Barham has done at the helm. Bob Slocum has done a scholarly job as secretary, and Orville Selig has very adequately handled the finances.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. J. R. Moore, of 6634 Indiana Ave., Riverside, at the loss of her husband, Operator J. R. Moore, who passed away at Santa Fe Hospital on Oct. 27, 1955.

VAN NUYS DIVISION

By DAKIN BOARDMAN

Santa's On His Way

The Metro Valley Club has engaged the services of "Santa" to preside over the festivities at the annual Christmas party to be held Sunday, December 18, at 2 p.m. for the children of employees of the Van Nuys Division.

The party will be in the trainmen's room, where there will be a big Christmas tree and a gift for each girl and boy.

"Santa" will arrive in a Metro bus, and will be welcomed by a throng of happy and eager children full of the Christmas spirit.

New Men At Van Nuys

Welcome to Julius Gonzalez, L. D. Menges, J. D. Buchanan, and F. L. Kincaid, brand new employees. Welcome also to Art Venlet, who transferred from West Hollywood division. He was the star pitcher at that division, which won the softball championship for 1955. We at Van Nuys are happy to have Art with us, and are hoping he will help us win the trophy in 1956.

So Long!

Sorry to lose Al Caya, W. L. Gray, H. C. Klindt, and N. D. Creveling as fellow-employees, but wish them luck in their venture into the trucking business.

New Year Benedict

W. S. Churchill, Metro operator on the 86 Line, and Lois Jenkins, will see the old year out and the new year in as man and wife. They will be married December 31 at 7 p.m. at the "Little Brown Church of the Valley" in North Hollywood. Reception will follow at 11658 Kitt-ridge Ave., North Hollywood.

Scott has been with the company for over 18 years. The last 9½ years, he has worked in the Valley. His pretty bride-to-be works in the credit department of Silverwood's in Los Angeles.

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

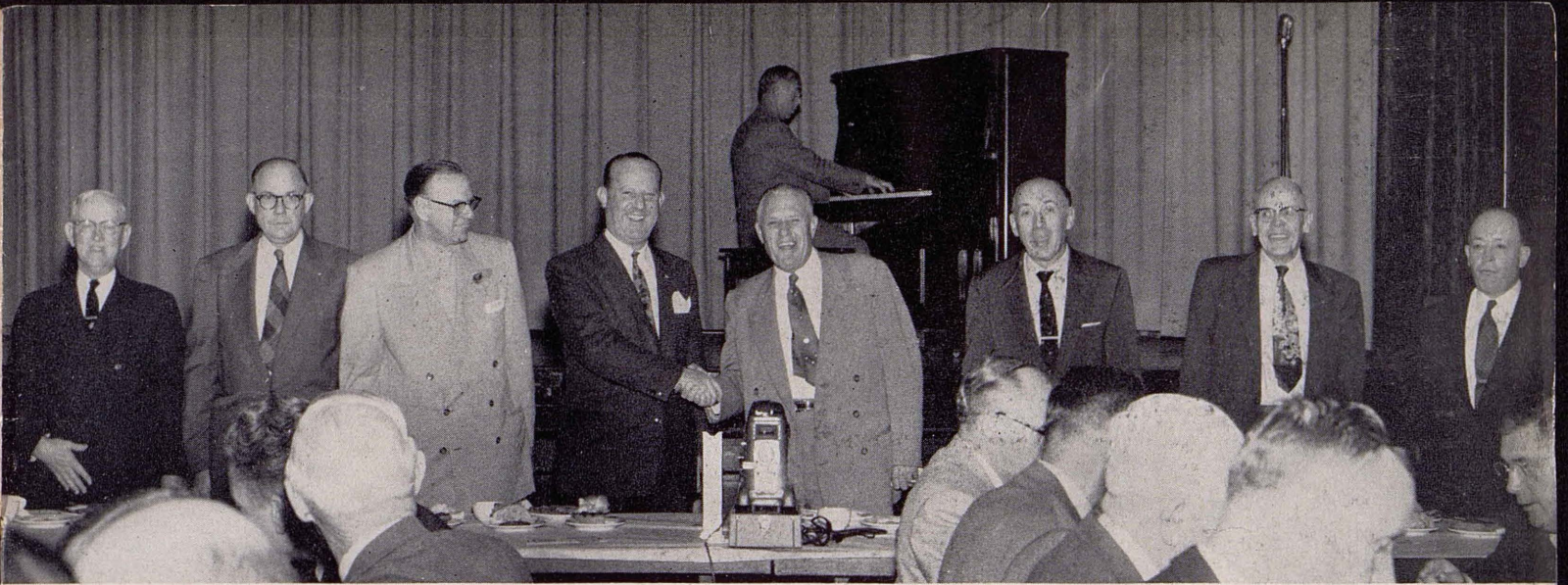
By THE SCRIBBLER

REMEMBER THIS:

"All the world seems brighter,
There's friendliness in the air;
Cheerful greetings are being sent
And joy is everywhere."

—Hi Lites

In this day of hustle and bustle, instead of Christmas being "just around the corner," it has many of



MASONIC BANQUET—The 33rd annual banquet of the Metro-PE Masonic Club, held Saturday, November 12, at Mizpah Temple, Pico Blvd. and Orchard St., Los Angeles, was the swan song of President William Pollack, shown (left) shaking hands with the guest speaker of the evening, Rev. Merle Fish, pastor

of the Pico Heights Christian Church. From left are F. F. Willey, past president; J. D. Puffer, guest of Mr. Pollack; John Gordon, who showed slides of Alaska and Masonic homes at Decoto and Covina, California; Mr. Pollack; Mr. Fish; M. J. Davidson, secretary; and R. M. Cobb and L. H. Appel, past presidents.

us backed into it, with all sides crowding in on us.

With the excitement of hurrying shoppers, vacant lots blossoming out in fresh young Christmas trees of every size and color, wreaths in the windows, and good will in our hearts, we know that the spirit of Christmas is abroad.

Those late vacationers relieve the pressure by taking a day now and then for braving the Christmas throngs—except *Jack Beggerly*, who slipped away from it all for a week of hunting, and it wasn't for gifts, either. Lacking tall tales, we assume he caught no "bar."

Santa's helper, *Marion Emley*, has been out on sick leave for the past month, and we hope to see her back on the job at the typewriter, and about her business of carrying Christmas cheer to her polio friends at General Hospital—the dry kind of cheer.

Florence Cox keeps Christmas in her heart all year, as a group of elderly ladies at a home in her neighborhood can testify. "Coxie" uses her own money to provide little extras that a pension cannot stretch far enough to cover. All year she welcomes the gift of yarn—new, or odds and ends—from which she knits knee warmers and caps for the patients at Olive View Sanatorium. During November, folks in a leper colony benefited by her gifts of clothing, some of which she collected from friends, other articles which she made herself. We feel sure that when the final roll is

GENERAL CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

By PAUL A. KARI

CLAIM AGENT *Bill Berke* and his wife, *Thäis*, welcomed on October 19, 1955, their second son, *Craig Randall Berke*, born at the North Hollywood Hospital. Craig joins an older brother, *Keith*, who is two and-a-half years old, at the Berke home in San Fernando.

Michael L. Marchante joined the ranks of claim agents on November 1, 1955. "Mike" is a recent bridegroom, having been married in Brooklyn, New York, in July of this year. "Mike" and *Marie* started housekeeping in an apartment in the Crenshaw-Imperial area of Los Angeles.

The football fans among the claim agents, accompanied by their wives, met in a group at the Rose Bowl to witness the Junior Rose Bowl classic on December 10, all rooting for Compton J.C. After the game, the finer points of football were discussed while the group enjoyed dinner at a nearby restaurant. Composing this happy group were *Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Schwertfeger*, *Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kari*, *Mr. and Mrs.*

called, "Coxie" won't be there—she'll be bustling around heaven, ministering to all the little angels, and giving a helping hand to the worn-out, tired ones.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to us all!

Jerry Woods, *Mr. and Mrs. Dick Dunlap* and *Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cragin*.

The members of the Claims Department are looking forward with anticipation to their annual Christmas festivities; gifts will be exchanged and a buffet luncheon is being planned to start the Christmas holidays off with the spirit of well-being associated with this time of the year.

TRAIN TALES

From the Long Beach Division

(Continued from Page 13)

Ran into *Johnny Miller* the other day. He wants everyone to know he bought an overcoat and two pair of warm pajamas with the money given to him by the men on his retirement.

A change in the staff has brought *Eugene R. Schaffer* to us. He has the relief clerk's job formerly held by *Ed Culley*, who has gone to El Monte.

Both *G. N. Freeman* and *C. T. Woods* have new Rambler station wagons. What do the poor people drive?

T. M. Justin is home from the hospital, but will be off for several months yet, and would enjoy having some of the fellows drop by.

Jimmie Stott is back working in Watts after being off sick for several months. Glad to have you back, *Jimmie!*

The last words: Kindness and courtesy are contagious.

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LYNWOOD, CALIF.

HOW TO TRIM YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE SAFELY

- Set tree in water — away from curtains or draperies.
- Keep it away from heat.
- Never use lighted candles on the tree (or in a window).
- Check tree lights for worn insulation, bare wires, loose sockets.
- Don't hook up lights to a circuit heavily loaded with appliances.
- Don't use cotton, wool, tissue paper, or other flammable decorations.
- Dispose of tree by New Year's Day.

Enjoy a Happy, SAFE Christmas!

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY