

64-1433  
#86 5674



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

MAY 14, 1973

## FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

# Board Lauds 25 Employees

The Board of Directors honored 25 employees on May 2nd who have participated and graduated from the first Transportation Administration Certification Program offered by the District through UCLA Extension.

The program was one of three management training projects initiated in January 1971 geared toward providing potential management staff with administrative knowledge and skills. All certificate courses are taught through UCLA Extension.

Thirty-three employees were enrolled in this program when initiated and of the 25 graduating, more than half have received promotions.

Graduating were: Staff Assistant Edwin Anderson, of Dept. 3299; Deputy Administrator for Operations Frank Barnes, Dept. 3099; Assistant Board Secretary Helen Bolen, Dept. 5000; Personnel Analyst I Norton H. Bornstein, Dept. 3800; and Auditor-Treasurer Frank Carr, of Dept. 7000.

Others were: Assistant Superintendent of Schedules Ray Chapman, Dept. 3270; Accountant Patricia Coble, Dept. 7000; Labor Relations Representative Donald Cornish, Dept. 9800; Staff Assistant II Geoffrey Diehl, of Dept. 3299; and Equipment Superintendent I Robert Falvey, of Dept. 3314.

Receiving certificates also were: Assistant Director of Purchasing and Stores Henry Hartpence; Supervisor David Heilman, Dept. 3299; Superintendent of Surface Planning Clarence Holzer, Dept. 4200; General Accounting Superintendent Inga Johnson, Dept. 7000; and Employment Supervisor William D. Kendall, Dept. 3800.

Also graduating were: Mechanic A Frank Kirshner, Dept. 3314; Instructor Harry Maguire, Dept. 3299; Operations Program Coordinator James Oliver, Dept. 3099; Community Relations Representative (Government) Samuel Olivito, Dept. 9500; and Community Relations Representative I Albert Reyes, Dept. 4400.

Others were: Director of Purchasing and Stores Earl Stanley, Dept. 9700; Superintendent of Schedules James Taylor, Dept. 3270; Superintendent of Reclamation and Surplus Material and Equipment Jessie Varrie, Dept. 9700; Advertising Manager William Weimer; and Division Clerk-Extra Relief Assistant Division Manager Ben Whittington, Dept. 3299.

Twenty-eight employees are enrolled in a second certification program class which began in fall 1972.



**HAPPY DAY**—Twenty-five District employees were graduated from the first Transportation Administration Certification Program May 2nd after two years of studies. The group was congratulated by (far left, third row) Assistant Manager of Operations John Wilkens and (far right, third row) Director of Personnel Byron Lewis. Graduates are (l to r, first row) Edwin Anderson, Henry Hartpence, William Weimer, (second row) Samuel Olivito, James Oliver, Earl Stanley, (third row) Frank Barnes, Ray Chapman, David Heilman and William D. Kendall. Others are (fourth row) Helen Bolen, Pat Coble, Harry Maguire, (fifth row) Robert Falvey, Ben Whittington, Frank Kirshner, Frank Carr, (sixth row) Inga Johnson, Jesse Varrie, Norton Bornstein, Don Cornish, (last row) James Taylor, Geoffrey Diehl and Albert Reyes. Not shown is Clarence Holzer.

## WE HAVE YOUR LINE!!!

Do you have the feeling that you have a good idea that might help the District save money or be more efficient, but feel no one will listen? Do you have a complaint, but don't know who you can tell or would you simply like to find out what is making news in the District?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions then you should know about two new telephone services being offered by the District.

A newly initiated Employee Hot Line has been installed to answer questions or accept criticism and suggestions. By dialing ext. 310 employees can let management know their feelings concerning operations, policies or even social aspects of the District, and in turn can learn management's feeling concerning these matters.

News hounds may find food for thought by calling ext. 485, the Quick News Line which relays important news when the District is involved.

Remember, these services are yours so use them. If you have any other good suggestions, dial ext. 310.

## IN BRIEF

Subscription bus service has met with gratifying initial success in the West San Fernando Valley area.

Air-conditioned District buses make four stops in the West Valley while traveling 30 miles to the ARCO Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles. Subscribers pay \$40 a month.

\* \* \*

District management is optimistic that a bidder will be found to meet the 14½ million gallons per year demand for diesel fuel before the May 31 expiration date of the present fuel contract.

A special Board of Directors session was called to consider the problem and new bids will be sought from suppliers.

General Manager Jack R. Gilstrap remarked that of the 18 suppliers asked to bid, only 10 responded and all declined to bid. He added that without a renewed supply by May 31st, fuel would be exhausted within a week.

\* \* \*

Testing of priority lanes in the Central City for the El Monte-Los Angeles Busway Flyers was urged by the Board of Directors before the Los Angeles City Council's Traffic and Off-Street-Parking Committee.

The priority lanes would be "contra-flow" lanes on certain existing and proposed one-way streets and median bus lanes along First Street in the Civic Center area.

The City Council's committee failed to act on the priority lane testing recommendations of a nationally-recognized traffic consultant, although a 1971 City of Los Angeles-RTD agreement provided for such a plan.

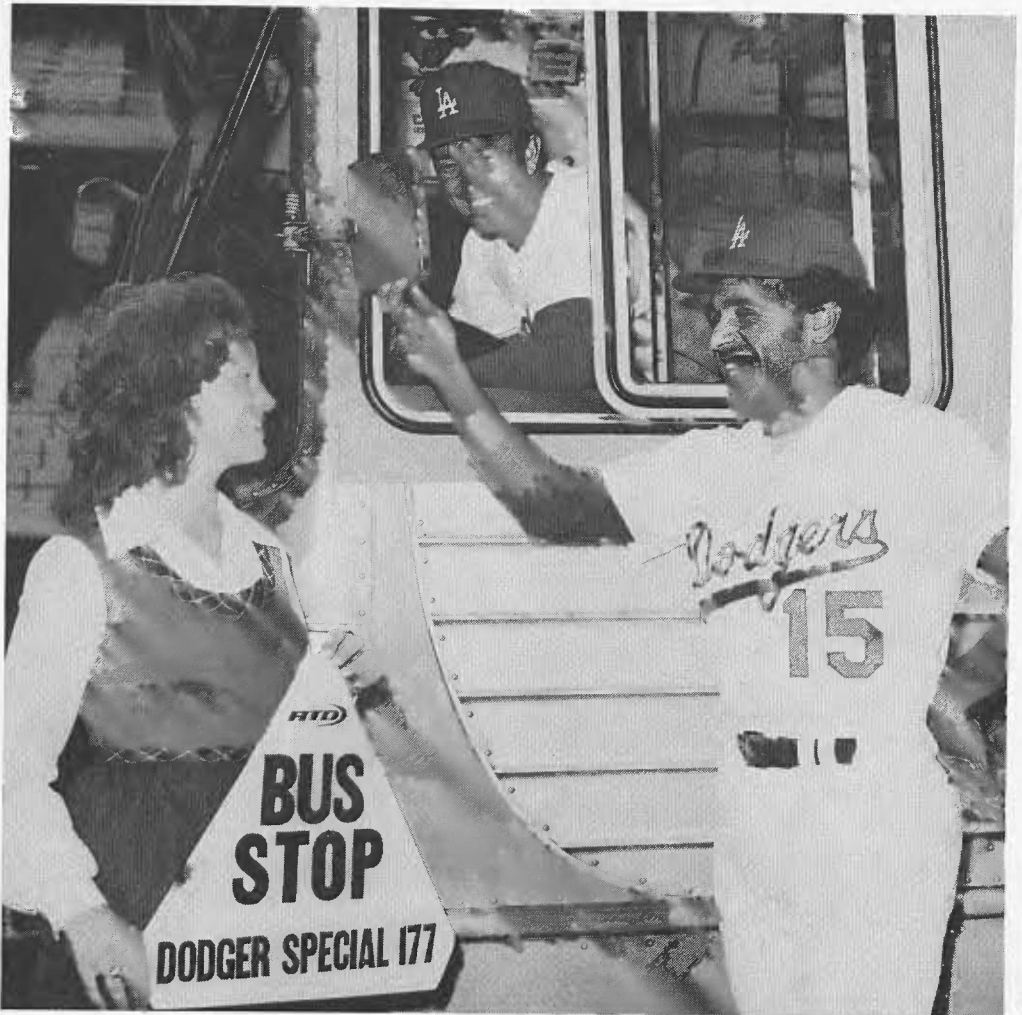
\* \* \*

Non-contract employees, with the exception of management staff, were granted cost of living raises May 2nd, retroactive to April 8, by the Board of Directors.

The raises are for six per cent from Steps 1-24 and five per cent from Steps 25-43.

### Transportation Booklet

A booklet derived from the Congressional Record, "Public Participation in Highway Decisions and the Freeway Failure," by George W. Brown, Ph.D., is available from the National Coalition on the Transportation Crisis, Brookland P.O. Box 4529, Washington, D.C. 90017.



**SPECIAL MISSION**—Pitcher Claude Osteen steps up to the driver's seat instead of the diamond as he, Secretary Ill Shannon Sims and infielder Dave Lopes look over a Dodger Stadium Special. Miss Sims is secretary to Assistant General Manager for Administration Jack Stubbs and Administrative Analyst Bill Foster.

## RTD Second Place in Blood Campaign

Despite the size of three transportation firms that vied with the District during a recent drive, RTD placed second in total donors.

The event, held annually in the Pacific Electric Building under the auspices of Southern Pacific, reaped a total of 154 pints of blood.

The breakdown is as follows: Southern Pacific Group, 84 pints; RTD, 30 pints; Atcheson Topeka and Santa Fe, 20 pints; and Western Greyhound Lines, 20 pints.

Through this program, any employee who donates one pint of blood annually is eligible, as is his family, to an unlimited amount of blood when needed.

Within a few weeks a current community Blood Mobile schedule will be posted at all divisions and employees may donate blood at the Mobile while crediting the contribution to the SCRTD Blood Bank. Those who wish to do this must be sure to mention that the donation is to be credited to SCRTD.



**HUMAN TRAGEDY**—Bus service was re-routed in El Monte across the Santa Fe Railroad tracks for 17 hours after two trains wrecked and spilled over the tracks, streets and backyards in the area. Two railroad employees died in the accident.

BOYS DAY IN BUSINESS

# High School Boys Tour District

Seven students from four high schools within the Los Angeles Unified City School District toured the facilities of the District during Boys' Day in Business.

Participating in the tour were: Gene Cox

and Steve White, of Carson High School; Steve Gould and Lance Barendt, of El Camino Real High; Douglas Weitzman and Maurice Zwass, of Van Nuys High; and George Gri-goriev, of Verdugo High.

The group first visited the South Park facility under the direction of Superintendent of Reclamation and Surplus Material and Equipment Jesse Varrie and then proceeded to the Broadway planning department site where Transportation Planning Analyst II Dan Miller explained the District's functions.

Later at the Dispatchers Center they heard Dispatcher Bob Bauer describe the duties of the center. At Division 9 Assistant Division Manager Gene Schaffer, of Division 1, and Assistant Division Manager George Marsala, of Division 9, described the El Monte-Los Angeles Busway and the role of the transportation department at the divisions.

The tour included an explanation by Equipment Superintendent I Jim Stinson, of Division 9 of the tasks of the maintenance department and a talk by Civil Engineer Elmo Douglass on the El Monte Terminal now under construction.

Accompanying the group throughout the tour were Varrie, Miller and Community Relations Representative I Al Reyes.

## Day Care Information

A pamphlet entitled "Day Care Facts" has been released by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The booklet contains information regarding day care need, federal support for day care, day care programs directly connected with employment and other government-oriented activities related to day care.



**END OF THE RAINBOW**—Div. 1's Harry Hoegeman, equipment superintendent 1, always wanted an electric model train when he was young, but to his disappointment then he only received friction-type trains. Now as an adult he owns more than 100 electric trains. Read his story in the next issue.

## Audio-Visual Handicap Threatens Unhappiness for Eight-Year-Old Girl

Ninety thousand children in California have an audio-visual perception learning disability, of which approximately 30,000 are in the Los Angeles area. Division 8 Operator Bob Riccio's second-grade daughter, Debbie, eight years of age, belongs to this unique and unfortunate group.

Bob and his wife, Eileen, have appealed to District employees to help them seek programs for educationally handicapped children such as their daughter.

The couple first noticed Debbie's problem when she was in first grade at Topeka Drive Elementary School in Northridge. Of course, at the time they did not realize that her late talking and inability to tie her shoes were signs of a learning disability.

They couldn't help but notice that she slurred words together in her speech and that she couldn't distinguish left from right, but they thought the difficulties were only due to slow development. Later they could see that she couldn't hold scissors very well when cutting paper, couldn't throw a ball and that as she was learning to print she reversed letters.

When she began to learn how to read she often reads words backwards. Now that she writes, she runs words together because she has no spatial conception and she has not been able to learn to add or subtract past 10.

Debbie doesn't truly read. She memorizes the words so that she can get a good grade in class and as a result she does not comprehend what she is reading. Also in an effort to get good grades, she copies other students' work in order to get 100 per cent because she doesn't want to get behind.

The couple discovered Debbie's situation was due to the audio-visual perception learning disability in November when they had her tested at the University of California at Los Angeles. The tests consisted of problems involving emotional stability, motor skills and intelligence.

Results of the tests explained why Debbie was one year behind in her studies, although she is only in the second grade.

Although their daughter is considered only borderline, meaning that the problem is not serious though visible, Debbie is going to have to repeat the second grade and also

*(Continued on Page 6)*



**STRICTLY BUSINESS**—Four high schools were represented on Boys' Day in Business as seven students toured the District.





**MARCH HONOREE**—Operator George C. Crowe, Div. 2, has been named "Operator of the Month" for March as a result of his courtesy and safe driving. The Line 12 driver accepts a certificate from Director Byron E. Cook. Crowe joined the District on July 24, 1947.

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

Almost an even dozen division clerks transferred to other divisions during the recent Division Clerk Shake-Up effective Sunday, May 13th.

Of the 49 clerks who were eligible to participate, 11 chose to transfer to new divisions.

Congratulations to newly-promoted **F. R. Thompson**, now a division clerk at Div. 5 who was formerly an operator-extra clerk at Div. 9, and to former Div. 12 Division Clerk-Extra Relief Assistant Division Manager **W. S. Hawkins** who is now an acting relief assistant division manager.

The top three division clerks according to department seniority are: **S. F. Scott**, Div. 9; **L. E. Tedrow**, Div. 7; and **E. R. "Al" Aufart**, Div. 2. Scott joined the District on May 26, 1942, Tedrow on July 11, 1936, and Aufart on Nov. 8, 1938. None chose to move to another division.

**Editor's note:** Company seniority differs from department seniority.

\* \* \*

Belated best wishes to Extra Board Operator **Bob Johnson**, of Div. 9, and his wife, **Henrietta**, who became parents of a beautiful girl Feb. 9.

The couple named the baby, **Valerie Ann**, and she is their first child.

\* \* \*

Glad to hear that Operator **H. G. Norie**, of Div. 5, was home recuperating April 10th

from recent surgery in which he had the top lobe of his lung removed. He was in the hospital 16 days, seven of which were in intensive care.

The Line 8 operator has been on sick leave since March 25th and may return to work



**H. G. Norie**

in late May or early June after a healthy rest at home in Lennox. He has been with the District for 26 years.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I took upon myself to write you this note. We at Division 9 very rarely read anything about our division, so I would like you to know this. We have a heck of a nice assistant (division manager) here who would do anything for you no matter what color or creed you are as long as you are right.

His name is Mr. Gasper Marsala (George). He and his wife, Josephine Caroline, celebrated their 25th anniversary April 11th.

They have two children, Judith, 24 years, who attends college in preparation to teach in college, and a son, Gasper John, Jr., 20, who is in the carpeting business for himself.

They (the elder Marsalas) reside in a lovely new home in Covina, but are formerly of North El Monte.

Also good news was Gasper's son's engagement announcement and August wedding plans with a pretty little blonde girl named Debral Kay Kline, so two happy events are to be congratulated.

Thank you for letting me tell you this and hope we can read it in next month's paper.

Co-workers of Division 9

**(Editor's note)**—Here it is and I add the District's congratulations and best wishes to a much-loved employee, who has worked at the agency since Sept. 17, 1952.)

Dear Editor,

Your article "Youse is News" let the world know (the RTD Flyer will print employee news), so I am telling news of myself.

I am also making news for our (hometown) newspaper. I celebrated my 93rd birthday recently and am enjoying life. In the first place, I serve my Creator . . . then I aim to eat his natural food and exercise lots by walking from one to three miles a day . . .

I still do my part of telling the word of my Creator's wonderful powers and he is blessing me with a 1,000 per cent healthy body. I have no pains and sleep well all night.

I started to work for Los Angeles Railway on April 7, 1907, and worked 20½ years. I would love to hear from some of the old employees that are still living that I worked with and you also, the editor.

I sure enjoy the news of the advancement of the RTD. May my creator bless each one of you is my prayer.

Leonard Neff  
P.O. Box 84  
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

## Operator Eugene Gillis Joins Reserve Corps

Four-year Vietnam veteran Eugene D. Gillis, an operator at Div. 7, has enlisted in the Marine Corps Air Reserve at El Toro with the rank of staff sergeant.

He has been with the District since Oct. 3, 1970.

Gillis will train one weekend a month and two weeks each summer with the Marine Air Support Squadron-4, which is a part of the all-reserve 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

## Councilmen Choose Abernethy Mayor

James Abernethy, community relations coordinator, now must be addressed as "Mr. Mayor," following his April 24th election to that position by the Sierra Madre City Council.

The new mayor has served on the council for 11 years and is in his twelfth year of service with that body. He has once before served as mayor and was vice mayor for three years.

In his new post, Abernethy will be mayor for one year.

Mayorial appointments are made by a majority vote of the council members and the mayor must always have been a councilman.

Sierra Madre has a population of 12,000 residents and is represented by a five-member council, one of which is the mayor. The council meets twice a month and in numerous committee and community organization meetings.

Abernethy, who has been with the District's community relations department since Sept. 19, 1966, comes from a politically-oriented family. His father, Al Abernethy, was mayor of Pasadena for two years and city director for that city for eight years, two of which were as mayor.

In addition to his civic duties, Abernethy is active in the American Youth Soccer Organization and has served as that group's past president and is treasurer for Region 2, serving Sierra Madre and Arcadia. Region 2 represents 500-600 boys and girls.

Last year Region 2 almost won the State Playoffs in Divisions 1 (13-15 years) and 2 (10-13 years) as it came within one game of sweeping the dual honors.

As unlikely as it seems, Abernethy does find time for hobbies. He enjoys fishing — at every available opportunity — with any of his four sons.

He and his wife, Rosemary, are the parents of: Jim, 22 years of age; Steve, 20; Mark, 17; and John, 14.

## Retired Operator Deitz Funeral Services Held

Funeral services were held at Inglewood Park Cemetery Mortuary with interment following for Emil F. Deitz who passed away April 18 following prolonged illness.

Deitz was an operator with RTD for 43 years and was selected as Operator of the Month for April 1965. Ironically, he received the honor April 21, 1965, almost exactly eight years prior to his death. He joined the District on Sept. 15, 1922 and retired on Sept. 12, 1965, almost 43 years later.

He was last assigned to Div. 10.

Deitz is survived by his widow, Helen, son, Emil F. Deitz, Jr.; and grandchildren, Pamela, 22; Rickey, 18; and Laurie 14.

The former operator's motto throughout life was, "Treat the people right and they will treat you right."

Sincerest condolences to the Deitz family on behalf of everyone who knew and worked with Emil.



**HANDS OF TIME**—Marking the march of time as the Southland converted ahead one hour on April 29th to Pacific Daylight Savings Time are Planning's Secretary II Diane Guastafarro and almost a dozen operators. Smiling are (l to r) Div. 2 operators Noble Brown, Joe Harbor, Jose A. Paz, Frank Zanotti, Wallace Slaughter, Richard Kinmon, Willie Johnson, Jr., James Haining, Robbie H. Coleman, Louis B. Ramirez and Antonio M. Reyes.

## Employee News

(Continued from Page 4)

He and his wife **Lucille**, have three children: **Craig**, 27; **Judy**, 17; and **Barbie**, eight. Craig and Judy have endowed the Norie family with a total of three grandchildren. Craig and his wife, **Dorothy**, have a son, **Chris**, two years, and a daughter, **Carey**, five months. Judy and her husband, **Bob**, have a son, **Bobby**, six months.

Mrs. Norie would like to thank whoever is responsible for providing such a good District health plan. She said, "We don't know what we would have done without it."

\* \* \*

Reluctantly and very sorrowfully Secretary III **Jeanne A. Day** retired May 8th as more than 75 employees bid her farewell at an afternoon retirement party.

Jeanne, secretary to Manager of District Building and Services **Roland Krafft**, began with the District on Nov. 8, 1950, as a stenoclerk. She was promoted and assigned as a secretary in the traffic department during 1953 and in 1958 served as a secretary in the research and planning department.

She again was promoted in 1960 to secretary II and became a secretary III in 1964. Jeanne has worked as Roland's secretary since Nov. 21, 1971.

Everyone would like to wish Jeanne a happy and full retirement.

\* \* \*

Sorry to hear that Temporary Building Engineer **Sam Galatioto**, who works at Location 31, has suffered a heart attack, but also glad to hear he is recovering speedily. Sam has been with the District since Jan. 28, 1954.

\* \* \*

Remember some weeks back when it was announced that Draftsman I **Larry Hoccum** was going to wed? Well, he finally did!

He and his bride exchanged vows at Lake

Tahoe and honeymooned there and traveled throughout several western cities.

\* \* \*

Somebody at Div. 8 is very proud of Mopper-Waxer **David Maxwell**.

It seems that his fellow employees couldn't be more pleased at how clean Dave keeps the division, but they also noticed his "special calling." You see, Dave is considered the "division chaplain" because he is always willing to listen to everyone's problems.

\* \* \*

Hats off to Mopper-Waxer **Lester A. Clark**, of Div. 9, and his wife, **Margaret**, upon celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary.

They are also celebrating the upcoming graduation of their daughter, **Midge**, who will be receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from California State University, Los Angeles.

\* \* \*

Our favorite male in the inventory control department, **Joe Grabowski**, is an expectant father for the first time after three years of wedded bliss. The happy event should occur sometime in September, but, in the meantime, the girls are giving "Ski" helpful (?) handy hints.

\* \* \*

There's a smiling new face in the purchasing department, **Bob Fox**. The very personable supervisor of quality control and testing has been with RTD since Jan. 28, 1972, and recently transferred to the purchasing department.

Welcome aboard, Bob!

(Editor's note: The latter two items, word for word, were submitted by Patti Kelly, supervisor of inventory of South Park. Thanks, Patti!)

—the editor

# Educational Handicap Threatens Happiness

(Continued from Page 3)

needs special training that costs an average of \$166 or more for eight hours a month (two hours a week). The training could be required from one to three years, with no guarantee of success.

The Riccios are frustrated because they have learned that not only will their insurance not cover the initial testing performed at UCLA, but the insurance also will not cover further testing and training expenses. Due to the nature of testing and training, the screening is not covered by the Riccios group medical insurance.

As though that was not already enough, the couple also found that they could not enroll Debbie in special classes for the educationally handicapped sponsored by the Los Angeles City Unified School District because students must be two years behind in their studies.

Mrs. Riccio added that there is also a special fund administered through the Los Angeles City Unified School District, entitled the Sedgewick Fund, which provides a maximum of \$1,800 per educationally handicapped student (includes transportation) if there is no educationally handicapped class placement available within the student's area.

This program, too, requires that a student be two years behind in his/her studies.

Both the educationally handicapped classes and Sedgewick Fund came into being due to concerted efforts by groups of parents with hyper-kinetic children or children with perceptual handicaps or dyslexia (inability to read more than a few lines with understanding).

The Riccios joined one such group, the California Association for the Neurological Handicapped Child, which is trying to get programs started for these children. The group was founded in 1960 and has 37 chapters throughout the state, with chapters in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles areas.

This organization played a major role in establishing the special classes and fund.

Early testing is being stressed by the Riccios and the CANHC because, they contend, only through the early screening can children with these handicaps really be helped.

They believe full screening should take place in kindergarten, with thorough follow-up performed. Testing costs \$150 or more.

The Riccios are seeking other parents to become involved in their drive to establish testing within the schools, as well as founding of programs for these students.

"It aggravates me to see that parents are not getting involved. We need these parents and money," stated Mrs. Riccio.

Until the family can get some aid, financial and educational, they will continue to seek a program for Debbie. A professor at California State University, Northridge has a child with the same problem and is paying a teacher for his child and 11 more. The Riccios know that the professor cannot continue to pay such costly fees and that this solution is only temporary.

Presently they have hired a tutor to teach Debbie at home for \$3 per half hour. The usual fee is \$10 an hour, but they also realize that they cannot afford to keep the tutor for one, two or three years.

Their chief hope is that they can get a group of parents organized to get signatures on a letter requesting programs for the educationally handicapped and that the letter and signatures can then be presented to the State Assembly by Assemblyman Robert C. Cline (San Fernando Valley).

Debbie will continue attending Topeka Drive Elementary School—repeating the second grade—and someday she may be able to attend the special training sessions she needs.

There is no consolation to the Riccios in the fact that her problem usually occurs only among boys rather than girls and of particular concern is that they have another daughter, two-year-old Stephanie, who they cannot say will not inherit Debbie's problem.

The couple reside at 18846 Ballinger St., Northridge.

## TRANSFERS & PROMOTIONS

		Dept.	Effective
James Russell Yost	From: Mechanic A To: Mechanic A Leadman	3302	4/8
Arthur Flanders	From: Trafficman To: Operator	3221 3210	4/8
Roman C. Gonzalez	From: Mechanic AA To: Mechanic AA Leadman	3307	4/8
Rogelio Diaz	From: Operator To: Mechanic C	3206 3307	4/8
Winnie McDonnell	From: Revenue Clerk To: Payroll Clerk	7000	4/4

## WELCOME ABOARD

	Dept.	Hired
Alex William Martinez, Utility A	3307	4/18
Manuel Luevano, Mopper-Waxer	3303	4/17
Carol Marie Sachs, Typist-Clerk	9700	4/16
John Donald Hansen, Operator	3212	4/15
Alan Ray McKissick, Mechanic B	3307	4/15
Walter C. Senior, Operator	3299	4/13
Vincente Paul Cayzer, Operator	3299	4/13
Kenneth Eugene Wilson, Operator	3299	4/13
Ernest Nathan Anderson, Operator	3299	4/13
Arthur Paul Castaneda, Operator (EEA)	3299	4/13
James Carl Scimenti, Operator	3299	4/13
Raymond Maurice Ancil, Mechanic B	3301	4/13

### RTD Directors

DR. NORMAN TOPPING,  
President

THOMAS G. NEUSOM,  
Vice President

Arthur Baldonado  
Byron E. Cook  
A. J. Eyraud, Jr.  
Adelina Gregory  
Herbert H. Krauch  
Don C. McMillan  
Douglas A. Newcomb  
Jay B. Price  
Richard K. Kissick, Secretary

Published by and for the employees of the Southern California Rapid Transit District.

JACK R. GILSTRAP  
General Manager

GEORGE W. HEINLE  
Manager of Operations

GEORGE L. McDONALD  
Manager of Planning and Marketing

MARIA ELENA AMPARAN  
Editor

Southern California Rapid Transit District  
1060 South Broadway, Los Angeles 90015

U. S. POSTAGE  
paid  
BULK RATE  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Permit No. 28201