

R U N N I N G T I M E S

A NEWSLETTER OF METRO BUS AND METRO RAIL OPERATIONS

CNG Buses in Service

As of mid July, 25 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses were on the property with a dozen already in revenue service at Division 15 (Sunland). During the next year and a half MTA will place into service the current order of 196 buses plus a second optional order of another 98 buses for a total of 294 CNG buses. Of the first order of buses, 46 will be assigned to Divisions 15, 50 to Division 8 (Canoga Park) and 100 to Division 10 (Gateway). A fourth division may receive a portion of the second order of 98 CNG buses.



The MTA is a national leader in alternative fuel transit bus operation. The MTA in 1989 was the first agency in the country to operate with CNG powered heavy duty buses. The successful demonstration of the 10 CNG buses assigned to Division 15 (1800 Flxible Series buses) encouraged other transit agencies to acquire CNG buses as an alternative to diesel powered buses.

Pursuant to Board directives, in 1993 the staff conducted

extensive analysis to determine alternatives to existing diesel fuel. The technology of the use of natural gas to fuel heavy duty engines has rapidly improved. Natural gas powdered engines now have sufficient power for heavy duty transit operations (260-270 hp.). Natural gas may be used as Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) (must be stored at -260° F) or as compressed natural gas (CNG). For infrastructure reasons, CNG is favored over LNG for most fleet operations. In its favor, CNG technology meets all the stringent emission standards for 1998, has a relatively low cost per mile of operation and there is a large domestic supply.

Accommodation of the CNG buses has required several actions for the three divisions which will initially receive the buses. Bus *continued, page 3*

Green Line Opens

The region's third MTA rail opening occurred the weekend of August 12-13. The Green Line, which runs from Norwalk on the east to the airport and South Bay area to the west, successfully began operation during a free-fare promotional event. After a boisterous and rousing grand opening ceremony held at the Imperial/Wilmington Green Line Station, filled with speeches and spirited sound effects, the public was allowed to ride the trains for free.

On Saturday, the line carried 28,000 boardings, and on Sunday, carried 37,000 boardings. This is quite impressive because the service was operated with 14-16 one-car trains. Every train was thus jammed to the rafters with eager rail transit enthusiasts and families.

The fact that we handled such large crowds is a positive reflection of the efforts of MTA staff who volunteered their time over the weekend, and also the efforts of the Transit Police force *continued, page 3*



A message from Arthur T. Leahy

Single Manager Concept Implemented

As you are already aware, the single manager piece of the Operations' reorganization has been implemented. A Service Operations Manager and several Deputy Service Operations Managers have been selected and assigned to divisions. The following is a listing of persons selected for these jobs and the divisions they are working. Among the many factors used to select these positions was a willingness to work with and bring together their division employees to meet the challenges and objectives of the new reorganization.

Congratulations to all of the following:

Summary of Division Management Staff

	Service Operations Manager	Deputy Service Operations Manager	
Northern Region Jon Hillmer, Interim General Manager	Division 3	Mike Lensch	Diane Frazier, John McBryan, Howard Shelter
	Division 8	Dorothy Fluker (Acting)	Jim Davis, Grant Myers
	Division 15	John Roberts	Dan Frawley, Pat Orr
Southern Region Ralph Wilson, Interim General Manager	Division 2	Ron Reedy (Acting)	Emilio Caballero, Jackey Lee, P.G. Smith
	Division 5	Mace Bethel	Dana Coffey, Milo Victoria, Joe Brown*
	Division 18	A.J. Taylor (Acting)	Ray Kunkle, Maxine Giles*, Roy Starks
Eastern Region Tony Chavira, Interim General Manager	Division 1	B.J. Harris	John C. Adams, Karl Downs, M. Van Der Geugten
	Division 9	Evelyn Frizelle	Don Karlson, Earl Rollins, Max Martinez*
	Division 12		Tony Sandoval, Robert Parreco
Western Region Ellen Levine, Interim General Manager	Division 6		Alex DiNuzzo, Jim Lukens
	Division 7	Harold Hollis	Michael Bottone, Chris Coleman, Karl Mueller*
	Division 10	Rick Hittinger	Grace Golden, Dieter Hemsing, Jack Owens

*acting

Division 5 DAC Participates in a JuneTeenth Celebration Leimert Park

June 19, 1995

As part of the MTA's Vandalism Abatement Program efforts to curb graffiti vandalism and beautify our communities, we joined with the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Unified School District to commemorate JuneTeenth at Leimert Park on June 19, 1995. The day is significant because it marks the freedom day for slaves in east Texas and the surrounding states. It was on this day that General Gordon Granger landed with federal troops in Galveston, Texas with the expressed mission of forcing the slave owners to release their slaves.

In commemoration of this special day, MTA staff and Division Advisory Committee (DAC) 5 members coordinated and conducted a Vandalism Abatement lesson for 150 elementary-age students from Western Avenue, La Salle Avenue and 74th Street schools at the JuneTeenth celebration. Additionally, each school presented an artistic mural about transportation to Los Angeles School Board member Barbara Boudreaux (see photo).

The theme for this year's program was transportation past, present and future. The theme was fitting for Franklin White, who attended the festivities and spoke to the crowd. A Vandalism Abatement Program public information booth was set up at the celebration, and where upwards of 5000 of the public visited. The day-long event was a success because of the joint participation from the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce, DAC 5, Southern Region General Manager Ralph Wilson, and Division 5 management staff under Mace Bethel. □

4th Grade students from La Salle School present a mural on transportation to LAUSD Board member Barbara Boudreaux (left). Bus Operator Anna Saldivar and Maintenance Tech Fay Tenson emphasize important message to MTA Take Pride Stop Tag Club students (right).



'95 Bus and Rail Roadeo Successes!

20th Annual Bus Roadeo

The 20th Annual Bus Roadeo final competition was held on Saturday, June 10, 1995 at the Santa Anita Race Track Parking Lot in Arcadia. Hundreds of MTA employees and their families came out to cheer for the 31 finalists hoping to win this year's championship title. The title was won by a first-time Bus Roadeo competitor, Division 12's Mark Holland. This year's second place finisher was Division 1's Samuel Morales, a former



Franklin White and Division 7's Harold Hollis at the Bus Roadeo finals.

Bus Roadeo winner. Third Place went to another previous Roadeo winner, Division 10's Elias Soria, and the fourth place finisher was Salvador Sanchez from Division 3.

Board Member Larry Zarian was present to observe the 31 competitors

looking their best as they began their day being judged on their personal appearance (uniform inspection). Franklin White and Art Leahy were on hand to congratulate the Roadeo Champion and finalists after an exhausting day of competition. Mr. White, who had participated as a judge on the final day of the preliminary competition, expressed his appreciation to all the competitors and judges for their hard work and dedication in making this year's event a success!

Let us give Mark Holland our full support as he prepares to represent the MTA at the International Bus Roadeo on October 10, 1995 in San Antonio, Texas.

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Rodeos, continued

MTA'S First Annual Rail Rodeo

The MTA's First Annual Rail Rodeo was held at the Blue Line Division on Saturday, May 20, 1995. The Championship title was won by the Green Line's Yandell (Sonny) Lister. The second place finisher was Donald Clark from the Blue Line, and Cathy Jones also from the Blue Line received third place.

There were 16 Train Operator participants from the Red, Blue and Green Lines. Art Leahy attended the event and thanked the competitors and judges for their participation.

Sonny Lister represented the MTA at the Third Annual International Rail Rodeo, hosted by New York Transit Authority on June 10, 1995. Sonny finished fifth in the overall competition. Fourteen rail properties representing Heavy, Light, and Commuter rail Systems from across the nation participated in the event. □



Rail Operator Sonny Lister (center) and Bus Operator Mark Holland (second from right) are flanked by (left to right) Director Mel Wilson, Light Rail Manager Tom Jasmin, and Division 18 Service Operations Manager O.J. Harris at the July Operations Committee.



Franklin White (far right, front row) and Art Leahy (far left) with the bus operators who participated in this year's Bus Rodeo held in the parking lot of Santa Anita Racetrack.

Green Line Opens, continued

assigned at the stations. Staff from Operations comprised the majority of the volunteer force, with representatives from almost every department volunteering.

Franklin White, MTA Board members and executive level staff attended the opening on Saturday and were very impressed with the level and quality of the rail operation, and the way we were able to accommodate such large crowds. Dennis Villard from Rail Operations developed the operations plan and was in charge of the opening weekend rail operation, Byron Lee was in charge of crowd control, and Sonny Lister was the operator of the first train to carry passengers on Saturday. In addition, Fran Curbello of Marketing handled the Grand Opening event. Congratulations go to all who worked this opening for their contribution to the success of the event!

The Green Line is currently in another fare promotion period which lasts through Labor Day. During this time, the fare for a Green Line ride is only 25 cents.

If you have not yet ridden this newest line, plan to do so in the near future. The art at each of the stations is quite impressive, and the route which takes you down the middle of the Glenn Anderson I-105 freeway is quite unique. This is especially notable during the rush hours, when the train literally zooms past automobiles stuck in traffic. □

CNG Buses, continued

operators, mechanics and maintenance assistants are in the process of receiving training for operation and maintenance of these buses. New CNG fueling facilities are being constructed at Divisions 8 & 10 and the existing CNG fueling system at Division 15 has been modified to accommodate the fueling of more buses. Since natural gas is lighter air and therefore rises to ceilings, ventilation and detection systems must be upgraded and certain electrical connections modified.

Operation of these buses includes new safety precautions. Detection of gas leaks by smell and sound is important in training and in new safety systems. Gas detection systems are in place on each bus, at each fueling station and in the maintenance facilities in the divisions. There is also a fire suppression system in each engine compartment.

Lastly, the CNG buses come with other new passenger pleasing features. The air conditioning system is mounted on the roof instead of over the engine and the refrigerant is more environmentally benign. The windows are only lightly tinted thus lightening up the interior. The interior is brighter with lighter color seats and on the floors. Similar to the Blue Line rail cars, there are stainless steel seat frames and side panels for better appearance and easier cleaning. For greater passenger safety there are stanchions on every seat for hand holds. □

Eastern Region Operations

From the Mountains to the Sea

Vital Statistics

The Eastern Region Operations covers an area from Mt. Wilson on the north to Long Beach south cutting the county in half to the east. Our service spans, but is not limited to the cities of:

Alhambra	La Verne
Altadena	Long Beach
Arcadia	Lynwood
Artesia	Monrovia
Azusa	Montebello
Bell	Monterey Park
Bellflower	Norwalk
Bell Gardens	Paramount
Claremont	Pasadena
Commerce	Pico Rivera
Covina	Rosemead
Diamond Bar	San Dimas
Downey	San Gabriel
Duarte	San Marino
East Los Angeles	Santa Fe Springs
El Monte	Sierra Madre
Glendora	South El Monte
Huntington Park	South Gate
Industry	South Pasadena
Irwindale	Temple City
La Habra	Walnut
Lakewood	West Covina
La Mirada	Whittier
La Puente	

and sections of unincorporated county areas. Eastern Region buses complete runs in other regions as far west as Pacific Palisades and east to Montclair.

Our team at Division 1 operates lines 16, 18, 30-31, 66, 67, 460, 462, 466, 664, and shares line 379. Division 9 in El Monte operates lines 70, 76, 78, 79, 170, 188, 258-259, 262, 264, 267, 268, 470-471, 484, 487-491, 489, 490, 497 and 614 shares lines 260, 266, 270 and 655. The Long Beach Division 12 team effort operates lines 202, 232, 265-275, 446-447, 660 and shares lines 60 and 260.

Roadeo First, Second, and More!

The Eastern Region's Mark Holland of Division 12 drove away with first place at the 20th Annual Bus Roadeo Competition on June 10, 1995. Second place was garnered by Eastern team member Samuel Morales from Division 1. Champion Holland will represent the MTA at the International Bus Roadeo in San Antonio, Texas in October for the APTA Annual Conference. Eastern team members attaining high ranks at the 20th Annual Roadeo are:

Rank	Name	Division
10	Luduvico M. Castro	09
12	Hugo Mercado	01
13	Conrad Noriego	01
16	Arnold A. Herrera	01
18	Poncho A. Gonzalez	09
20	Jose S. Arizmendi	09
21	Joel F. Fradejas	01

Go team!

Zero Tolerance Program

FY96 ZT Goal

The relentless efforts of MTA's Zero Tolerance (ZT) team members have achieved exterior results transforming the fleet into a "zero tolerance state" where the removal of exterior graffiti is accomplished within one-round trip and buses leave the division in a graffiti-free condition. Our express goal in FY96 is to concentrate on Metro Bus interiors. The ZT team will change out vandalized windows, seats and panels in addition to improving our cleaning processes. Indeed, the state of the Metro Bus is critical to our mission to meet the needs of our constituents with safe and clean service. ZT is the vehicle by which we will meet and exceed this challenge in 1996!

ZT Division Advisory Committees (DAC)

Division 1 has recently elected a new slate of officers to lead the ZT DAC volunteer members. Maria Avila was elected President along with Leonard Telles as Vice President and Elizabeth Arellano as Secretary. Outgoing President Albert Hinojos was instrumental in developing the TAKE PRIDE & STOP TAG Parent Seminars that will be implemented this year throughout Los Angeles County. His team of officers Vice President Harold Anderson and Secretary Joe Santoyo lead the volunteers to a tremendously successful year. WELL DONE!

ZT JAWS & MARS

Unlike their scary names, the Juvenile Alternative Work (JAWS) Project and the Mediation and Restitution (MARS) Project are two additions to the Zero Tolerance Program. Spearheaded by Zero Tolerance Chairperson Antonio Chavira and managed by Bill Gay, the projects will augment our efforts to keep our fleet graffiti free. JAWS is a Saturday work project that supervises juvenile probationers performing community work removing graffiti from buses. MARS provides the MTA and the graffiti offender and parents an opportunity to reach an agreement for restitution of harm and damage to be paid in dollars or work to the agency. Both projects hold graffiti vandals accountable for the damage they cause. The projects are laudable MTA volunteer efforts that go a long way toward achieving a positive image for the Metro Bus fleet and the MTA! □

Meet the Western Region

We carry patrons in the beach communities from Malibu to Venice and in the Wilshire Corridor, West Hollywood, Los Feliz, Century City, Hollywood, West L.A., Silver Lake, Beverly Hills, Brentwood and Bel Air. Our 300,000 plus daily passengers ride on 417 TMC and RTS buses. We carry one fourth of the riders on approximately 21 percent of the buses. Our passenger load is even higher in the summer with special beach and Hollywood Bowl services.

The Regional General Manager is Ellen Levine. There are three divisions in the Region, 6 (Ocean View), 7 (West Hollywood) and 10 (Gateway). Divisions 6 and 10 work in tandem with one Service Operations Manager (SOM), Rick Hittinger. They share lines, with Division 10 operating all the service on the weekend. Grace Golden, Jack Owens, and Dieter Hemsing are the Deputy Service Operations Managers (DSOM) at Division 10 and Jim Lukens and Alex DiNuzzo are at Division 6. Harold Hollis is the SOM at Division 7 and Chris Coleman, Michael Bottone, and Karl Mueller are the DSOMs. Management is supported by Maria Reynolds, Chief Administrative Analyst, and Ira Trachter and D.A. Haykel, Administrative Analysts. The team is rounded out by some of the best TOSs, EMSs, ESSs, Operators, Mechanics, Maintenance Assistants, Clerks and Stores personnel at the MTA.

The Western Region Team embraces Joe Drew's philosophy that "managers manage things that have already been designed, while leaders plan and develop new ways to do things." We are leaders, not managers. Our entire leadership team would like to inspire our employees with new and innovative programs to assist them in achieving the goals and missions of the Region and the MTA. We believe that it is imperative that we share information so that we all understand why it is critical to improve our service. Furthermore, we know that we can only accomplish our objective if we treat both our employees and customers with dignity.

The Region's mission statement is "To ensure that the people, businesses and visitors in the Western Region have clean, safe, reliable buses operated and maintained by courteous customer-oriented professionals. To continuously improve service quality, reduce costs, and increase ridership and revenue in the Western Region."

We recognize that many changes are taking place at lightening speed in the Western Region. A loud thank you to all of the employees in the Region for their acceptance, participation, enthusiasm, and tolerance of these rapid changes. The success of all the dreams and our future are dependant upon teamwork and the continuing submittal of creative ideas.

MTA Western Region Hosts Open House

The MTA's Western Region hosted an Open House at West Hollywood Division 7 on Saturday, June 17, 1995, to introduce the new regionalized MTA to both its employees and their families and the community at large.

Division 7 was transformed into a scene depicting the wild west. Ellen Levine, Western Region General Manager, and her staff greeted approximately 500 visitors throughout the day. "We want to let our passengers know what we do and how we do it," said Ellen. "This a wonderful opportunity for us to get closer to our customers and members of the MTA family."

This festive event featured information booths, tours of the facility, games for the kids, country western music and refreshments. Staff representing Corporate Transit Partnership, Marketing, Transit Police, Vandalism Abatement and the Western Region were present to answer questions. Division 7 staff dressed as friendly cowpokes provided behind the scene tours of the facility. Displays included the nostalgic 1950's GMC bus, a new compressed natural bus, a Red Line subway car and the Transit Police anti-graffiti van.

In order to give all of our employees an opportunity to share their work environment with their families, open houses were hosted at Divisions 10 and 6.

On July 8, Division 10 had a musical extravaganza with three very talented groups performing Flute and Oboe Trio, Civil War Marching Band and Saxophone Quartet. The Division's own SOM, Rick Hittinger played in the Saxophone Quartet. There were games for the kids, "antique" fire trucks and buses to see and board, tours of the facility and food.

Division 6's open house was held on July 15 and included a tour of the facility followed by an old fashioned beach party. How appropriate for our Division by the sea. □

Howdy!



MTA volunteers D.A. Haydel, Maureen Micheline, and Ira Trachter welcome visitors to Divisions 7's Open House.

Southern Region

The Southern Region's planned Open House date will be announced in the not too distant future. The event is tentatively planned to be held at Division 18; as further details are available, everyone will be apprised.

Juneteenth

On Monday, June 19, 1995, a Juneteenth celebration was held at Leimert Park, which is within the Southern Region. Regional General Manager, Ralph Wilson, Service Operations Manager, Maceo Bethel, Deputy Service Operations Managers, Dana Coffey, Joe Brown and Milo Victorio from Division 5 were in attendance and was introduced to members of the community.

Southern Region Represents MTA

The Southern Region was MTA's representative at a recent Community Forum held by Rita Walters of the Ninth District at McKinley Avenue Elementary School on Saturday, June 24, 1995.

Community Outreach

The state of MTA's transportation services provided in the Ninth District was discussed with members of the community. Those in attendance were provided an opportunity to receive transit service information, and to ask questions about present and future transportation services offered within their community. The MTA was very well received at the forum.

Division 2 Millionaire

"No one wins the lottery?" It has been proven, "someone *can* win the lottery!" That someone is Rhonda Hawkins, TOS-Instruction, Division 2 - Southern Region!. Rhonda and her husband, Michael are \$16.5 million richer as a result. Our suspicions are, the "wealthy" couple will be making great plans for the future--is work included? Best wishes.

Kudos

As the Southern Regional team continues its commitment to improve service quality and to further its bus cleanliness program as mandated, Regional General Manager Wilson, wishes to express his appreciation for the efforts, the commitment and dedication to excellence within the region. Mr. Wilson also stated, "As I continue to meet and become acquainted with the employees of the Southern Region, I find these opportunities to be quite refreshing and quite an honor. I look forward to meeting more of you out and about the Region." Keep up the good work! □

Northern Region

Northern Region Salutes Eusebio Diaz, Division 8 Mechanic & Leadman

A veteran of 21 years at Division 8 and 22 years with the Authority, he made his first suggestion in 1984 consisting of a pulley for engines. Always on the look out for ways to do the job better, now eleven years later Mr. Diaz has designed and built more than a dozen proposed part modifications and tools. In addition he holds nine patents for various items. These include a specialized hydraulic for transmission assembly and three patents for container seals.

In the words of Division 8 Service Operations Manager Dorothy Fluker, "We call Mr. Diaz simply The Genius of Mechanical repairs." In addition she notes: "He is an individual who accepts change, participates in that change and stands ready to ensure there is a successful transition." Deputy SOM, Jim Davis, states he believes he has other recommendations that can be used with a minimum implementation cost to save the Authority significant dollars.

Interviewed recently by Ralph de la Cruz, Deputy Executive Officer for Metro Rail Operations and Service Delivery Support, Mr. Diaz enthusiastically dug into his tool cabinet to show off several of his part modifications. Although Mr. Diaz had many more examples, Mr. de la Cruz took four part modifications for investigation by engineers at the Regional Rebuild Center (RRC), noting that: "It is a pleasure to meet such a dedicated employee and all of these proposals should be carefully considered but we'll check out these for now." Explains Northern Region General Manager, Jon Hillmer: "I am proud to recognize and laud Mr. Diaz for his persistence and resourcefulness. His efforts in finding better ways to produce our product are appreciated. Improving the way that we do our jobs is critical to the process of improving the quality of transit service we provide to our customers."

The list of his suggestions/inventions is impressive and includes:

- Developed an alternator bracket with rubber inserts to absorb shock from metal to metal contact thus prolonging the life of the alternator.
- Developed a check valve for the fuel tank in order to prevent fuel tank leaks.
- Developed the gear box tool remover that is now in use in all the bus divisions.
- Designed a special ratchet tool to replace missing lug nuts.
- Devised a method to prolong the life of fan belt pulleys through modification of the bearing cover that has reduced hot engines and related excessive road calls.

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Joe Moore Operator of the Month for March

Joe Moore began his career with the MTA on November 7, 1974. As a full-time Operator, he worked at Division 5, and transferred to Division 18 in the mid-80's when the new facility opened.

Operator Moore's outstanding record reveals that he has accumulated the maximum merits (90) and zero instances of sick. His record indicates no long term absences, missouts, avoidable or unavoidable accidents or rule violations during the qualifying period. Joe Moore is a people person. He has said that he enjoys meeting new people and feels a sense of pride and satisfaction when being helpful to the public.

He is married and has four children, two boys and two girls. In his spare time, he enjoys restoring antique cars and trucks and showing them at various automobile shows.

Division 9's Oscar Aguayo April Operator of the Month

Oscar Aguayo began his career with the MTA in June 1974. During his 21 years of outstanding service to the MTA, he has not had a missout. He has been not been counseled for a rule violation or an unavoidable accident for the past 10 years and has been absent, due to illness, only three times during his employment with the Authority.

Along with maintaining an excellent service record, Mr. Aguayo has received a letter of commendation from his manager every year of his employment as well as letters of appreciation from the patrons he has served. He has also been selected a yearly MTA Bus Rodeo participant.



Larry Zarian, Chairman, MTA Board of Directors; Evelyn Frizelle, Division 9 Service Operations Manager; Operator Oscar Aguayo, April 1995 Operator of the Month, Division 9; Don Karlson, Deputy Service Operations Manager, Division 9; Hal Croyts, Alternate Board Member.

Oscar has been married to his wife, Irene, for almost 40 years. They have five children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys tinkering with old cars in his spare time, and he and his wife split their vacations between Reno and Las Vegas. They have lived in Baldwin Park for 31 years.

Well done!



Warren Knox is Maintenance Employee of the Month for April

Warren Knox, of Division 5 has been employed with the MTA since July 1972; he is a Mechanic "A". He is much appreciated by his coworkers, as he is known to always go that extra mile to do the best job possible.

Mr. Knox is married and very active in his church, where he serves as a deacon. His hobbies include working on automobiles, taking nature walks, photography and model trains.

Warren will be retiring in July after 23 years of outstanding service, and his contribution to the MTA will be sorely missed.

Division 1's Melissa Pedraza is May's Maintenance Employee of the Month

Ms. Pedraza has been employed with the MTA since September 1989, and is currently a General Clerk III. During her six years with the agency, she has demonstrated exceptional administrative skills in providing total quality support to management each and every day.

Ms. Pedraza has a beautiful four year old daughter with whom she enjoys spending time. Her hobbies include spending time on the computer, shopping for clothes, traveling and riding motorcycles. She is a humanitarian in the truest sense and enjoys helping people realize their dreams; her personal wish is to eventually care for terminally ill children.

Congratulations! □

Information Operator of the Month for April is Greg Pitts

An employee of the MTA for 20 years, Greg is an accomplished agent. He has been selected Telephone Information Operator of the Month twice before, and for good reason. His productivity levels are outstanding, and his superior performance and dedication to a job well done is appreciated by his supervisors.

Greg is married and has two daughters, ages six and 15. Recently, his eldest made the family proud when she made the honor roll at her school. Mr. Pitts enjoys art, literature, music and architecture. He is also interested in archaeology and anthropology.

Irma Castellanos Information Operator of Month for May

An employee for only six years, Irma is an accomplished agent. Like Greg, she has been selected Information Operator of the Month twice before. She brings to her job a sense of dedication and desire to help others that is hard to find.

Irma is a single mother and has three daughters, Raquel 11, Yvette 10 and Ariana 4. She prefers to spend all of her spare time with the girls. Their favorite family activities include camping, bicycle riding and going to the movies.

Congratulations go to both of you for a job well done!

City of Los Angeles honors Shirley Raven-Moore

Councilmember Rita Walters of the City of Los Angeles recently presented Division 2 Operator Shirley Raven-Moore with a Certificate of Appreciation. This action was prompted by her outstanding and exemplary service to the citizens of Los Angeles.

A constituent and MTA patron recently wrote to the Councilwomen, "I have never observed Ms. Raven-Moore to be anything but extremely courteous to passengers. She is always solicitous of the senior citizens as well as the handicapped. If they have a problem boarding, without fail, she will get up out of her seat, gently help them and wait until they are safely situated, on or off the bus.

Her driving practices are exemplary, and she has never been observed to be anything but extremely attentive to the safety of the passengers." □



Larry Zarian, Chairman, MTA Board of Directors; Irma Castellanos, Information Operator of the Month; Scott Mugford, Assistant Director, Customer Relations; Rose Marie Cendejas, Acting Manager, Telephone Information; Mel Wilson, Chairman, Operations Committee.



P R O M O T I O N S

The following is a listing of recent promotions within Operations. Congratulations to you all!

Jessica Acosta	General Clerk II	Joyce Libasora	Executive Secretary (Acting)
Frank Alejandro	Rail Divn. Trans. Manager (Acting)	Donald Little	Asst. Rail Div. Trans. Mgr. (Acting)
John Almeida	Engineering Associate	Lorenzo Lopez	Administrative Aide
David Arellano	Stock Clerk	Theresa Lutton	Customer Info Agent I
Nikola Bakajin	Warranty & Equipment Mechanic	Rita Malone	Rail Division Trans. Manager (Acting)
Patricia Campbell	Senior Secretary (Acting)	Rachel Malone	Equipment Records Specialist
Robert Chappell	Rail Traction Supervisor (Acting)	Michael Mockler	Engineering Associate
Richard Day	Sys. Electronic Comm. Tech.	Michael Morris	Maintenance Assistant Leader
Lelan Duong	General Clerk III	Eural Moss	Mechanic "A"
Cynthia de Guzman	Storekeeper	Alton Murphy	Storekeeper
Ernie de la Rosa	Storekeeper	Gordon Oblander	Mechanic "A" Leader
Marcus Fletcher	Mechanic "A" Leader	Karen Ota	Senior Secretary (Acting)
Elton Ford	Assignment Coordination Clerk	Don Ott	Facilities Maintenance Manager
Pedro Garcia	Storekeeper	George Pelley	Facilities Inspector Leader
Arthus Garlick	Storekeeper	Louis Peralta	Mechanic "A"
Jerry Givens	Deputy Exec. Officer -- Ops. (Acting)	Maria Reynolds	Chief Administrative Analyst (Acting)
Phillip Gonzales	Sys. Electronic Comm. Tech.	Ildefonso Sosa	Mechanic "B"
DA McClain Haydel	Administrative Analyst	Michael Staley	Maintenance Specialist
Steve Jaffe	Chief Administrative Analyst (Acting)	Loveice Stewart	Sr. Truck Driver/Clerk
Harold Jensen	Rail Electronic Comm. Insp. Leader	X'Ania Thompson	Administrative Aide (Acting)
Dennis Johnson	Sys. Electronic Comm. Tech.	Roslyn Townsend	Chief Administrative Analyst (Acting)
Michael E. Jones	Maintenance Specialist	Reynaldo Vasquez	Air Conditioning Technician
Michael R. Jones	Mechanic "A"	Anita Vigil	Chief Administrative Analyst (Acting)
Kenneth Lee	Mechanic "A"		

I N M E M O R I A M

Richard Burns	System Electronic Comm. Tech	5-4-95	14 years
Kevin Crawford	Bus Operator	5-28-95	20 years
Kenneth Farris	Bus Operator	3-14-95	33 years
Pedro Jimenez	Mechanic "A" Leader	4-14-95	30 years
Stanley Oawster	Bus Operator	4-15-95	31 years
Antonio Palacios	Bus Operator	4-3-95	35 years
Ernest Pena	Bus Operator	2-24-95	37 years
Donald White	Bus Operator	4-6-95	10 years
Gerald Wrenn	Bus Operator	1-15-95	18 years

C H A N G I N G G E A R S

The following is a listing of recent retirements within Operations. Congratulations to you all!

Harry Alba	Bus Operator	5-2-95	11 years
Theodore Alexander	Bus Operator	7-5-95	23 years
Lloyd Arnold	Warranty & Equipment Mechanic	6-9-95	11 years
Tony Calorino	Schedule Planner	5-15-95	7 years
Robert Cooks	Bus Operator	4-13-95	23 years
Charles Crawford	Bus Operator	6-6-95	20 years
Robert Dawson	Bus Operator	6-19-95	23 years
James Dickey	Bus Operator	4-21-95	23 years
Dao Do	Data Technician	2-6-95	19 years
Jose Estrada	Mechanic "A"	4-28-95	13 years
Lorenzo Fernandez	Bus Operator (part-time)	6-16-95	2 years
Walter Fujimori	Bus Operator	5-31-95	36 years
Jesse Garcia	Bus Operator	5-16-95	23 years
Carl Gayle	Mechanic "A"	6-26-95	23 years
Carnell Hampton	Bus Operator	5-16-95	19 years
Daniel Hobdy	Transit Operations Supervisor	6-1-95	28 years
Wilbur James	Bus Operator	6-26-95	23 years
Lloyd Jennings	Bus Operator	5-22-95	23 years
Jacob Kradolfer	Bus Operator	4-30-95	20 years
Robert Legier	Bus Operator	5-16-95	23 years
Sally Lehmkuhl	Bus Operator	7-10-95	19 years
Melvin Levine	Mechanic "A"	5-31-95	23 years
Earnest Lewis	Stock Clerk	5-15-95	20 years
Victor Markovich	Bus Operator	7-5-95	23 years
William Migal	Bus Operator	5-22-95	20 years
Luis Moreno	Bus Operator	5-31-95	23 years
Hilario Navarro	Bus Operator	4-30-95	19 years
Ann Neeson	Director of Employee Relations	7-1-95	5 years
Jan Pecherski	Bus Operator	4-30-95	23 years
Raymond Potts	Bus Operator	6-3-95	23 years
Jesse Quezada	Mechanic "A"	6-3-95	15 years
Maudell Rayford	Bus Operator	3-1-95	20 years
Antonio Rendon	Bus Operator	3-1-95	18 years
George Roessner	Bus Operator	4-17-95	23 years
Evangelina Rojo	Bus Operator	3-31-95	16 years
Michael Sanchez	Bus Operator	5-16-95	23 years
Wijnand Schardijn	Mechanic "A"	5-6-95	20 years
Harry Simmons	Bus Operator	4-12-95	22 years
Printicen Smith	Bus Operator	5-10-95	23 years
Harry Standberry	Bus Operator	5-31-95	23 years
Leroy Thomas	Bus Operator	6-10-95	23 years
Robert Trejo	Schedule Checker	7-31-95	23 years
Neil Webb	Bus Operator	5-31-95	21 years
Willie Wilson	Mechanic "A" Leader	7-31-95	27 years
Joel Woodhull	Technical Planning Manager	4-30-95	21 years
Florence Wooley	Mopper Waxer	4-3-95	23 years

Master Inventor



Eusebio Díaz points to engine component modification he designed for buses.

Díaz, continued

- Designed a fastener to secure the air supply cover on the front panel on Neoplan buses thus eliminating missing panels.
- Due to his recommendation, yard light relocated from mid yard to fence, thus eliminating a hazard.

Díaz moved to Los Angeles permanently in 1960 after Castro took over Cuba in 1959. He owned his own gas station in Pomona and obtained a certificate from West Valley Occupational Center in transmission rebuilding. He joined RTD in 1973 as a B Mechanic at the suggestion of a personal friend and now-retired RTD Mechanic. Since starting with RTD he has continuously resided in Van Nuys. The careers of his three adult children involve computer repairs (older son), production and performance for a recording company (daughter) and equipment modification for a major car manufacturer (younger son). His wife of 36 years is starting a clothing making business, specializing in bridal and formal wear for purchase and rental. Anticipating retirement next year, Mr. Díaz is preparing to market several of his patents and to open his own transmission shop. He plans to use the shop to train high school students in mechanical repair skills. □

CNG buses, continued

process of receiving training for operation and maintenance of these buses. New CNG fueling facilities are being constructed at Divisions 8 & 10 and the existing CNG fueling system at Division 15 has been modified to accommodate the fueling of more buses. Since natural gas is lighter air and therefore rises to ceilings, ventilation and detection systems must be upgraded and certain electrical connections modified.

Operation of these buses includes new safety precautions.

R U N N I N G T I M E S

RUNNING TIMES is a publication of MTA's Operations Division. Items you would like to see included may be submitted for consideration to Byron Lee.

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Submission of Items to Running Times

Have you got any news you'd like reported? If you do please send it to me at the 425 building. Our intent is to publish either *Running Times* or an agency-wide newsletter monthly.

Subjects allowed are open-ended, announcement of an upcoming division or personal special event, report of a new baby in the family. Jot down a few sentences, or write an entire article! Artwork, (pictures and photos) may also be included. Oh, by the way, please include your name, work location, job title, so we can give you the proper credit, and also your telephone extension in case we need to get more information.

We will try to include your information in the next issue.

Thanks, *Byron Lee*

Detection of gas leaks by smell and sound is important in training and in new safety systems. Gas detection systems are in place on each bus, at each fueling station and in the maintenance facilities in the divisions. There is also a fire suppression system in each engine compartment.

Lastly, the CNG buses come with other new passenger pleasing features. The air conditioning system is mounted on the roof instead of over the engine and the refrigerant is more environmentally benign. The windows are only lightly tinted thus lightening up the interior. The interior is brighter with lighter color seats and on the floors. Similar to the Blue Line rail cars, there are stainless steel seat frames and side panels for better appearance and easier cleaning. For greater passenger safety there are stanchions on every seat for hand holds. □

