

cta Going Places

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CTA

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A-OK for Y2K

The CTA is ready for Y2K. For the past two years, staff throughout the Authority has been working to get us ready and we are now entering the final chapter of our Year 2000 Compliance Plan. The CTA has informed both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) that the CTA's key operational areas are Y2K ready.

Early computer programs were written to store and manipulate dates using two digits of the year instead of four. So when the year 2000 (Y2K)

begins, computers, hardware, and software that have been programmed with this two-digit format may fail to operate properly and confuse the year 2000 as "00" and think it is the year 1900.

At the CTA, all of the mainframe systems, desktop computing and infrastructure systems, and embedded code systems that may have had this two-digit programming have completed an extensive process of inventory assessment for

compliance to a functioning program, and remediation and testing if necessary. In addition, contingency plans have been formulated.

At this time, extensive testing of the mainframe system to insure full system compliance for its many

administrative functions is nearing completion. Approximately 1,400 outdated desktop computers were replaced with Y2K compliant models. And the systems which use embedded code, and which affect the rolling stock of trains and buses and facilities of the CTA, have had over 17,000 components inventoried with a greater than 99% compliance rate. The components that were found to be non-compliant have been fixed.

As an additional precaution on the evening of December 31st, all trains will be held at rail stations for approximately five minutes before and after midnight. In the event of a delay on the system due to a loss of power, this process will help customers exit more easily.

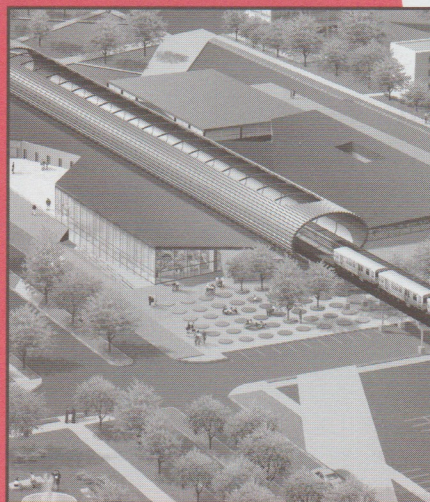
In addition to addressing these internal systems, the CTA evaluated vendors and critical service providers for compliance as well.



IIT To Build Tube Around Green Line Tracks

Building a tube for trains usually means constructing a subway, especially in England. The CTA's Green Line will have a new tube in a couple of years, but it won't be underground. It's being designed by the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) to surround the elevated tracks operating through its campus over the alley between State and Wabash from 32nd to 33rd Street. IIT is building a student center on the site, and they don't want it to sound like trains are going right through the structure, even though that's exactly what they'll be doing. One third of the new building will be west of the structure, and two thirds to the east.

CTA has worked closely with IIT to make the project feasible, and enable
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T A. Imes of Chicago recently wrote:

H For over 68 years, I have been riding Chicago buses, elevated trains and even the old street cars. Of course, the streetcars are now just a memory. Today, I had the pleasure of riding on bus # 4455. I boarded this south bound bus on Sheridan Road at Irving Park.

A As you can imagine, I have been on many buses with very pleasant drivers and I have thanked them for their service as I departed the bus. However, in all my years of riding the bus, I have never had the pleasure of riding with a driver #03505 (James R. Collins, North Park Garage) as courteous, who called out clearly and distinctly all stops, and was helpful beyond the call of duty.

Y I told him when I departed the bus at Erie and Michigan Avenue how much I had enjoyed the ride, and complimented him on true exemplary manner in which he had performed his duties. As I see it, you have a true jewel in this employee.

Going Places

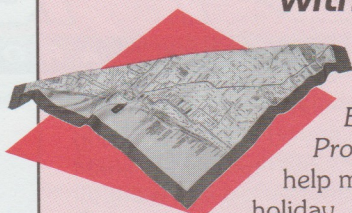
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News & Views

Make Shopping Easy with CTA's Gift Express



CTA's Gift Express Program can help make your

holiday

shopping a snap! The program offers gifts for everyone and every occasion — more than 25 items to choose from. We have t-shirts, baseball caps, CTA token jewelry, and much, much more.

CTA employees and retirees receive a 20% discount on all merchandise.

You can choose from an array of fun, CTA branded items from t-shirts to silk ties and

scarves. Just introduced — and only for sale to employees and retirees — is

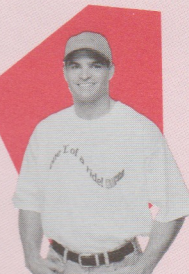
an

adaptation of a poster originally created for the Chicago Rapid Transit Company.

If you need a catalogue or would like to place a phone order (credit cards only) call 664-7200, x. 3066. To make a purchase in person,

come to the Mart, Room 734 (9 am-4pm, Mon.- Fri.) and look for the Gift Express signs. Starting this month, you can also make your purchases online at www.transitchicago.com.

CTA's Gift Express has something for everyone on your holiday shopping list!



Year 2000 Calendars

CTA's Year 2000 historical calendars are printed and will be distributed this month. Once again, CTA's ever popular historic photos will be featured each month. In addition, a photo of the new Nova bus (see picture on pg. 5) graces the back cover.

CTA employees will each receive one 2000 calendar free of charge at their respective work locations, and retirees can obtain a calendar by writing the Marketing Department. Calendars for the public will be available for \$5 each at CTA's Marketing Department office in Room 730 of the Merchandise Mart or by



sending a check or money order to the CTA Marketing Department, Room 730, Merchandise Mart Plaza, P.O. Box 3555, Chicago, IL 60654.

As we look forward to a new year, it is common to reflect on ways we can improve our lives both personally and professionally. Here are some tips that can be applied to any aspect of our lives.

Ten Suggestions For Getting Along Better With People

- 1 Guard your tongue. Say less than you think.
- 2 Make promises sparingly. Keep them faithfully.
- 3 Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind word.
- 4 Be interested in others, their pursuits, work, families.
- 5 Be cheerful. Don't dwell on minor aches and small disappointments.
- 6 Keep an open mind. Discuss but don't argue. Disagree without being disagreeable.
- 7 Discourage gossip. It's destructive.
- 8 Be careful of others' feelings.
- 9 Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Live so that nobody will believe them.
- 10 Don't be anxious about getting credit. Just do your best and be patient.

Source: "The Best of Bits & Pieces"



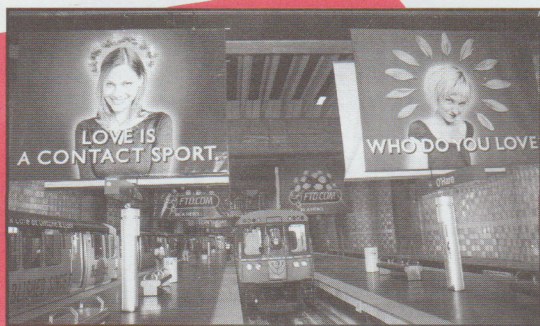
George Krambles, CTA's Renaissance Man in Transit

George Krambles, whose 43-year career as a transit professional culminated in serving as CTA Executive Director (President) from 1976 to 1980, died November 24 of a heart attack after open heart surgery at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park. Krambles joined the Chicago Rapid Transit Company, a predecessor of CTA, in 1937, and was the driving force behind a number of transit innovations as he rose through the ranks to become CTA's chief operating officer in 1976.

Krambles was involved in integrating CTA's surface and rapid transit systems after the agency's establishment in 1947, and had a hand in converting surface operations from streetcars to buses in the 1950s. He helped revamp 'L' service by reducing the number of short lines, introducing skip-stop service, and putting trains in the medians of expressways. He was also project manager for the Skokie Swift, the nation's first federally funded rapid transit demonstration project that served as a prototype for light rail systems around the country.

After retiring in 1980, "G.K.", as he was known, became a lecturer and writer, and continued adding to his already significant collection of transit photos and memorabilia from around the world. He also established a scholarship fund to provide college aid to students pursuing a career in the public transportation industry. A founder of the Central Electric Railfans Association in 1938, he was a member of numerous professional and trade organizations, and was named to the American Public Transit Association's Hall of Fame in 1995. Krambles lived in Oak Park within view of CTA's Green Line 'L.' He leaves a sister, Elaine Peterson, and a nephew, Arthur Peterson, of Park Ridge.

FTD.COM Blitzes CTA's O'Hare Station



On November 1, FTD.COM unveiled advertisements at the O'Hare Blue Line Station as the first of the CTA's Station Blitz sites. Station Blitz is a new CTA advertising program where all traditional and some rather unconventional rail station advertising space is rented to a

single advertiser. As a part of this program, graphics can be hung as ceiling and wall banners, laid on the floor, and wrapped around pillars at approved areas throughout a station.

According to CTA Chairman Valerie B. Jarrett, "As ridership on the CTA system continues to grow, advertising on trains, buses, and in our rail stations is an increasingly effective means for advertisers to reach the people of Chicagoland. These programs have become an important means of generating much needed revenue for the CTA."

The O'Hare Station on the Blue Line is being blitzed by DeBeers Diamonds this month.

Rolling through the Years

Please join us in congratulating CTA employees who are celebrating special anniversaries this month.

35 Years

Comer, Roger December 30
Power & Way Maint., Signal Maintainer

30 Years

Brown, Deloyd December 22
Kedzie Garage, Cash Box Puller

Garcia, Jr., Rosalio ... December 1
Training & Instr. Manager, Bus Instruction

Hardin, John December 8
74th & Wood Garage, Manager,
Transportation – Bus

Jackson, James December 19
Red/Yellow/Purple Line,
Rapid Transit Operator

McCoy, Sammie December 26
Blue Line, Rapid Transit Operator

O'Sullivan, Stephen December 15
Power & Way Maint., Trackman II

Rakauskas, Richard ... December 8
Bus Heavy Maint., Bus & Truck
Mechanic Leader

Schauble, Donald December 4
Forest Glen Garage, Bus Operator

Traxler, Diane December 8
Industrial Relations, Sr., Industrial
Relations Representative

25 Years

Avila, Rutilio December 13
Blue Line, Rapid Transit Operator

Bermeo, Wilson December 11
Red/Yellow/Purple Line, Car Servicer

Browne, Christopher ... December 11
Power & Way Maintenance, Trackman

Buckley, Terrance December 6
Blue Line, Customer Assistant

Clay, Perry December 18
103rd Street Garage, Bus Servicer

Collins, Frankie December 20
Rail Station App., Janitor (Rapid Transit)

Conner, Charles December 13
Red/Yellow/Purple Line,
Rapid Transit Operator

Criss, Jerry December 12
74th & Wood Garage, Bus Operator

Davis, John December 20
Green Line, Rapid Transit Operator

Flowers, Rosetta December 18
Green Line, Customer Assistant

Hopps, Linda December 2
Commun./Power Control, Controller II

Jackson, Gloria December 9
103rd Street Garage, Bus Operator

25 Years

Johnson, Tyrone December 6
Red/Yellow/Purple Line, Manager,
Transportation – Rail

Jones, Christine December 23
Commun./Power Control, Controller II

Kasman, Michael December 18
Forest Glen Garage, Bus Repairer

Lacey, Jr., Alex December 23
North Park Gar., Bus Serv. Supervisor II

Lee, Delia December 16
Kedzie Garage, Bus Operator

Maslic, Josephine ... December 26
Warehouse Op., Warehouse Worker II

Moyer, Ricarda December 9
Workers Comp., Bilingual Utility Clerk I

Murray, Linda December 5
77th Street Garage, Bus Operator

Nieves, Indalexio December 6
Blue Line, Rapid Transit Operator

Quiceno, Henry December 13
Red/Yellow/Purple Line, Switchman

Ramos, Hector December 23
North Park Garage, Bus Operator

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Moving On

Three members of the team that helps put together *Going Places* are retiring, bringing to a close a combined 75 years of service to the CTA.

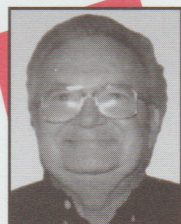


Anne Bandur (Start Date: 11/04/74)

Anne recently celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary at the CTA on November 4. She began her career at the agency as a Typist I for the Data Center (now called

MIS) in 1974. She held the position for nearly three years until she accepted a position in August 1977 as a Utility Clerk I (Composite). A few years later in 1981, Anne joined the Reprographics Department as a Typist II (Composite). Since that time, Anne has worked in other departments including Quality Assurance, Vendor Performance, and Procurement. She'll retire from the CTA in her current

position as the Administrative Secretary for the Graphics Department which designs all CTA publications including the *Going Places* newsletter.



Bob Caswick (Start Date: 08/19/74)

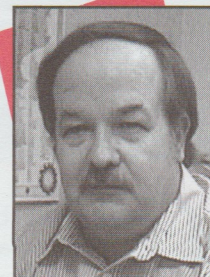
Since joining the CTA in August 1974 as a Duplicating Machine Operator III in the Reprographics Department, Bob

Caswick has held various positions throughout his 25 year career – from Supervisor Reproduction (March 1975) to Unit Supervisor Copy Center/Finishing (September 1984). He was promoted to his current position of Reproduction Coordinator in October 1997. In this position, he manages the printing schedule for the multitude of printing jobs (including the *Going Places* newsletter) that the Reprographics Department receives from departments throughout the CTA.

Jack Sowchin

(Start Date: 11/18/74)

Jack began working for the CTA during his vacations from college as a File Clerk in the late 1960s. He joined the CTA full-time in November 1974 as a Design and Audio Visual Specialist. Within five years, Jack was promoted to Director of Publications in September 1980. In 1986, he was promoted to his current position of Manager Publications and Graphics. He and his Graphics staff are responsible for the design of all CTA publications from the CTA System Maps to the *Going Places* newsletter. A couple of Jack's major design projects included the artwork design of many CTA Transit Cards and Passes and the Year 2000 Budget book.



Fleet Neighbors Wins the "Name The Employee Recognition Program" Contest



"Name the Employee Recognition Program" contest winner Fleet Neighbors (Howard Terminal) receives his prize for the winning entry Stepping Up To The Challenge from Employee Recognition Committee member Sean Howard (Assistant to Executive Vice President Jeff Morales).

On November 16, Fleet Neighbors (Towerman, Howard Terminal), was awarded two roundtrip tickets on American Airlines as the winner of the "Name The Employee Recognition Program" contest. His winning entry "Stepping Up To The Challenge" was selected from among 200 entries submitted to the Employee Recognition Committee. According to Fleet, the prize will definitely be put to good use. He plans to use the tickets next year to take his bride-to-be on a honeymoon. The couple will be able to fly to any destination in the continental U.S. that American Airlines serves. Congratulations!

In the coming year, the Employee Recognition Committee looks forward to the opportunity to honor more employees for **Stepping Up To The Challenge**. Happy Holidays!



CTA's New Nova Bus

A prototype of CTA's new low-floor, air-conditioned buses from Nova BUS Corp., of St. Eustache, Quebec, is expected this month at South Shops. Double front doors on the buses provide an opening 48 inches wide. Floors are just 14.6 inches off the ground, and a kneeling feature can lower the front entrance four inches more. Purchase of the first 150 buses was approved by the CTA Board in July, 1998. Delivery is expected late next year. On November 10, the Board approved an option to purchase up to 160 more buses. The goal is to have 450 Novas in service by 2002, and to receive about 150 of them a year to make the fleet easier to maintain.

1st Place

Rail Roundup Maintenance Team Champions

The team of Eugene Jolliff, Daniel Keller, and James Perkins from Rosemont Shops brought home this year's highest honor in the Rail Maintenance category. With over forty years of combined CTA service, this three-person team was required to quickly troubleshoot mechanical problems and determine how to fix malfunctioning equipment.

Keller, a repeat champion from 1998, comments that he competes because "the Rail Roadeo brings people together from different departments in a positive way. And it's a fun family day out." Jolliff, also one of last year's winners, enjoys learning from the national and international competition that follows a Chicago win. Perkins encourages other employees to get involved: "The roadeo is a great employee incentive program." Congratulations to these winners.



Rail Maintenance Team Champions (l. to r.) Daniel Keller, James Perkins, Eugene Jolliff.

IIT To Build Tube

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the institution to make better use of its property. Green Line service will continue as a 530-foot steel and concrete acoustical tube is built around the double tracks and steel column supports are replaced by concrete columns. The tube will be 30 feet high and 60 feet wide, and will have an eight-foot opening at the top to allow natural heat to escape. It will also have walkways along both sides of the tracks for maintenance and emergency needs. Besides actually building the tube and assuming all liability for it, IIT will also be responsible for its maintenance.

The new tube is the latest cooperative effort between IIT and the CTA as they work to meet their common needs. Earlier this year, the CTA moved its rail, bus and facilities maintenance training centers to more convenient buildings leased from IIT in the 3100 block of South Federal. In September, the CTA opened a new entrance to the Green Line's accessible 35th-Bronzeville-IIT station at 34th Street so IIT students and staff could reach the station more easily from the main part of the campus. Among the first new station entrances CTA opened after introducing its automated farecard system was at the 33rd Street end of the Sox-35th station on the Red Line, which also serves the IIT campus. Renovation scheduled for next year will make the Sox-35th station fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Accessible bus service is already available to the IIT campus on CTA's #1 Indiana/Hyde Park, #29 State and #35 35th routes.

Rolling Through Years

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25 Years

Readus, Dennis **December 18**
74th & Wood Garage, Bus Servicer

Rodriguez, Elio **December 11**
Blue Line, Customer Assistant

Roundtree, Jerry **December 6**
Green Line, Chief Clerk (Rail)

Schmitz, Bruce **December 6**
Power & Way Maintenance,
B Electrician (Substation Maintenance)

Weber, Jeffery **December 11**
Facilities Maintenance, Painter

Wilson, Ethel **December 19**
Commun./Power Control, Controller II



Changing Gears

#77 Belmont Service Extended to Notebaert Museum

On December 12, all buses on CTA's #77 Belmont route began serving the Chicago Academy of Sciences' new Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Lincoln Park at all hours the museum is open. This replaces shuttle service from the Belmont Red Line 'L' that was established when the museum opened in October. Providing the museum with a direct connection to the 'L,' #77 buses leaving Cumberland between 8:30 a.m. and

5:30 p.m. will operate east on Belmont and south via Lake Shore and Cannon to an off-street terminal in front of the museum on Cannon just north of Fullerton. Buses leave the museum via Cannon, Lake Shore, Diversey and Sheridan to Belmont from about 9:45 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. At other times, #77 buses will continue to use existing terminals at Lake Shore/Diversey or Belmont/Halsted.

Penny Lets Customers Ride A Bargain Into New Millennium

Celebrating the new Millennium could cost a pretty penny for some this New Year's Eve, but it will only require a single Lincoln likeness to get to and from any party site in the CTA service area. To help ensure a safe evening for as many revelers as possible, CTA will once again provide penny rides on its trains and buses from 8 p.m. Friday, December 31, until 6 a.m. Saturday, January 1, 2000. With CTA acting

as the designated driver throughout the evening, revelers can enjoy their celebrations without having to worry

about finding a place to park or navigating safely when the time comes to go home. Later than usual service will be provided to Navy Pier on the #29, #56, #65 and #66 routes for the fireworks display at midnight. CTA will also

run its #121 Navy Pier Express buses from Union Station and the Ogilvie Transportation Center (North Western Station).



Happy
Holidays
from the
Going Places Team