

For Employees
and Retirees of the
Chicago Transit Authority

TRANSIT NEWS

June 1990

Volume 43 - Number 6



Transit Employee Appreciation Day

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TRANSIT NEWS

is published for employees and retirees of Chicago Transit Authority.

Editorial and Graphics by the Marketing Department
Lynn Small, Manager

Director of Publications and Graphics
Jack Sowchin

Editor
Rick Willis

Graphic Designer
Diane H. Blue

Contributing Writers
Clayton McLean, Human Resources
T. C. Rogers, M. I. S.
Jeff Stern, Media Relations

Printing provided by the Management Services Department.
Distributed free of charge to all active and retired CTA employees. Annual subscription price to others, \$5.

CTA TRANSIT NEWS

Room 730, Merchandise Mart Plaza,
P.O. Box 3555, Chicago, IL 60654.

Executive's message

According to the Chicago Transit Authority's *State of the Agency* report, delivered at the March board meeting, we as a team are providing better service to our riders now than at any time in our recent history.

Surely every CTA employee has helped in some way to have accomplished this dramatic improvement, but no group deserves more credit than the operating employees: bus operators, trainmen, and agents. Anything less than a full court press by our operating team, and the turnaround would have been markedly less dramatic.

As we welcome Executive Director Alfred Savage, we are entering a new and exciting era in CTA history. Together we are striving to set a new standard for our passengers—a standard which will continue to boost ridership and garner public support through responsible management and conscientious employees. In the months ahead our executive director will visit field locations with me to meet operating and station employees.

As I look at some of the Operations Division's performance statistics for the first quarter of 1990, I see that we as a team have gotten off to a very healthy start. Our operating employees have established the best first quarter ever in the low rate of bus and rail systems accidents experienced. We all have our sights trained on establishing CTA's safest year ever in 1990. There are some areas in which we could make some improvements, but, on the whole, I am convinced that we have the foundation upon which to build the best transit team in the nation.

I believe the kudos bestowed upon the CTA transit team at the recent Transit Appreciation Day ceremony were universal. Not one of CTA's nearly 13,000 employees was left out of the heartfelt appreciation expressed by the dignitaries and spectators who were present. Again, thank you all for an excellent job, day in and day out, especially to the men and women who operate and maintain CTA's buses and trains.

Looking ahead to the summer, the Operations Division's incentive programs are shaping up to be the most challenging and rewarding ever.



Elonzo Hill

Deputy Executive Director, Operations

The Bus Roadeo champion will win a trip to Houston, and the Third Rail RoundUp winners will travel to Orlando, Florida, for competition at the national level. My senior staff and I look forward to awarding these and other prizes to the Operations Division's finest at the conclusion of the competitions. Good luck to all who have entered.

Some exciting improvements are in the works for later this year: approximately 900 new buses are on order and are expected to be delivered by year's end; a comprehensive study of the Authority's communication system will recommend improvements so that all of our jobs may be accomplished more smoothly; capital projects to replace the rapid transit telephone system and the bus radio system are either under way or will begin this year, and office automation is in full swing through projects such as pick-timekeeping.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my thanks to all CTA employees. Thank you for your part in making CTA the rewarding experience that it is for all of us. It is said that people are a company's best asset. Nowhere is that statement more evident than in a service-oriented industry such as ours. At CTA, especially in the Operations Division, I am proud to work with some of the finest people in the Chicago metropolitan area.



Transit Employee Appreciation Day

Elected officials and transit dignitaries including UMTA Area Director **Joel Ettinger**, IDOT Director **Linda Wheeler**, and RTA Board Chairman **Gayle Franzen**, joined CTA Chairman **Clark Burrus** at the State Of Illinois Center for Transit Appreciation Day festivities on May 11.

Lawrence Gorski, special assistant to Mayor Richard M. Daley, told the lunch hour gathering, "One of the ways a city is judged is by its public transit system. To ensure mobility for both residents and visitors alike, CTA must be given the resources to ensure safe, reliable, up-to-date transit. For it is still true, as the great Midwestern transit magnate Samuel Insull said nearly 70 years ago, 'You cannot possibly have a great metropolitan city without good public transportation.'"

Mistress of ceremonies **Rosemarie Gulley**, director, Media Relations, led

the applause for the 93 operating and maintenance employees who were the special guests selected to represent the CTA work force.

Elonzo Hill, deputy executive director, Operations, told the audience, "The real stars are the people who operate our trains and buses, keep them in good mechanical working order, and collect fares. The CTA is vital to our city and most essential to the transit dependent. To those who are fortunate enough to have a choice, CTA is economical and dependable, and one of the safest, if not the safest transit system in the country."

David Hillock, deputy executive director, Engineering and Maintenance, commented, "I want to take this opportunity to thank our maintenance employees for their continued fine performance which is so vital to CTA service."

CTA Chairman Burrus, in his salute to CTA workers, said, "CTA's current standing in the transit industry is in no small measure due to the continued efforts of its employees—in the areas of service delivery, safety, motivation and job knowledge."

"Bus operators, trainmen, ticket agents and station employees not only run the service, they sell it to our passengers. Maintenance employees keep our vehicles and facilities in safe and efficient condition in order to move millions of people daily. There are also hundreds of 'behind the scenes' people who contribute greatly to the excellence of our daily service. All of your jobs at CTA are of vital importance to Chicago. So, to each and every one of you, we simply say 'thanks.' Thank you all for a job well done."

Award earned for financial reporting

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Chicago Transit Authority,
Illinois

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 1988

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFR's) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



Jeffrey L. Eason
President
Executive Director

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to CTA by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada in recognition of CTA's comprehensive annual financial report.

The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment.

Ms. Virginia Wendorf, manager, Financial Reporting and Analysis, was also presented with an award of Financial Reporting Achievement for her role as the individual responsible for CTA earning GFOA recognition.

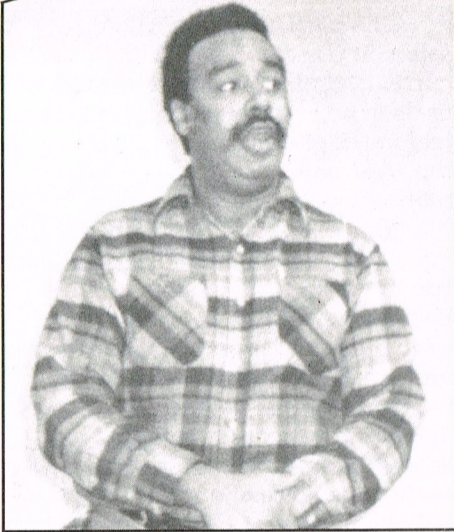
The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 11,500 government finance professionals. The association produces a variety of technical publications in various fields of governmental finance, and represents the public finance community in the nation's capital.



Ms. Virginia Wendorf, manager,
Financial Reporting and Analysis



ON THEIR TIME



Bus repairman **Frank Ambers** of 103rd street garage is CTA's singing mechanic. Ambers, a rather modest man in spite of the demand for his talented performance, is a basso who sings with the Lyric Opera.

Since 1982 he has been a chorus member in several operas. His burning ambition is to be the lead singer in a Verdi opera.

"I love anything by Giuseppe Verdi," says Ambers. "One of my

103rd street mechanic enjoys opera success

favorite arias is the *Infelidia* from Verdi's opera, *Ernani*," he says.

Ambers has been a singer since he was a boy. He credits his mother with giving him the encouragement he needed to continue his musical development. He participated in school shows and performed anywhere he could sing after school. Throughout the primary years and about half of the time he spent at DuSable high school, Frank Ambers was singing alto, but when he turned 16 his voice dropped down to the level of a basso.

Four years later, Ambers began a five-year stint of disciplined training with private singing coach Fritzie Siebach. During this period he took jobs singing anywhere he could find work. This included small groups and small opera companies, as well as churches and Jewish temples.

He continued his voice lessons at Roosevelt university and is presently studying voice with Professor Norman Gulbrandsen at Northwestern university.

When the Lyric opened its pro-

duction of Verdi's *Don Carlo* this past season, Ambers was right there to begin his sixth year with the famed Chicago opera company. Since auditioning with the Lyric in 1982, he has sung in Verdi's *Aida* and Richard Wagner's *Der Meistersingers*.

Ambers also lends his singing talents to the Kingdom Building Ecumenical Chorus which rehearses at his home church, Salem Lutheran, located at 74th and Calumet. As one might expect, Frank Ambers is also a soloist in the Salem church chorus, and is frequently called upon by his CTA co-workers to sing at various shop activities such as retirement open house events, and safety award presentations.

Ambers has been a CTA employee for 19 years, but says singing is everything. "It's the way you feel. It's living and breathing and getting along with people." He says that one day he wants to devote all of his time to his God-given talent.

Ambers and his wife Yvonne are the parents of three children and reside in the Chatham community.

Off to a great start

Jim Marshall, deputy executive director for Human Resources, says CTA's 'Transit Ideas Pay' (TIP) employee suggestion program has gotten off to a busy start. By mid-May, the program had received 81 ideas.

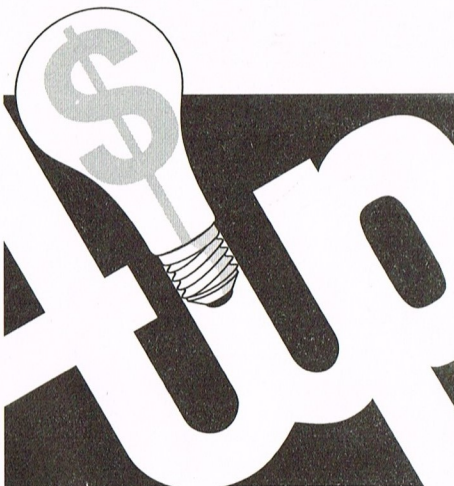
Virtually all of the ideas are in some stage of investigation, and are still in the running for awards," Marshall said.

The deputy explained that the investigation process has to be thorough and methodical, thus it often takes a substantial amount of time for an idea to be processed.

"We have to remember that for each TIP that is received, someone in the appropriate department has to be assigned to investigate it, and the

amount of time spent on an investigation depends on the relative complexity of the idea," Marshall added.

When that phase of the process is completed, the idea is sent to an executive review committee, which examines the results of the investigation. "This is to ensure that each idea submitted has been evaluated fairly and accurately," Marshall pointed out. "While it takes time," he continued, "we have to remember that these ideas are just as important to the Authority as they are to the employees who submit them. When an employee submits a winning TIP, everybody wins, so we encourage you to keep those ideas coming."



TRANSIT IDEAS PAY





Integrate purchasing, account payable systems

Contracting has been completed with American Software USA, Inc., for the purchase of an integrated Accounts Payable, Purchasing and 3-Way Match System. M.I.S. is looking forward to working with the Purchasing Department, Materials Control and Accounting Systems Departments to implement this important application.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following M.I.S. employees have achieved success through programs offered by the Management Development and Training Department:

Time Management

John Keil	Paul Olenski
Larry Simpson	Lisa Leneer
Deborah Grant	Donna Pasquesi
Gerald Blair	

Middle Management

Jeffrie Shelley
Kenneth Edwards

Effective Speaker

Robert Bratek
Fred Collins
Patricia Glines

M.I.S. applies new technology to an old transit challenge

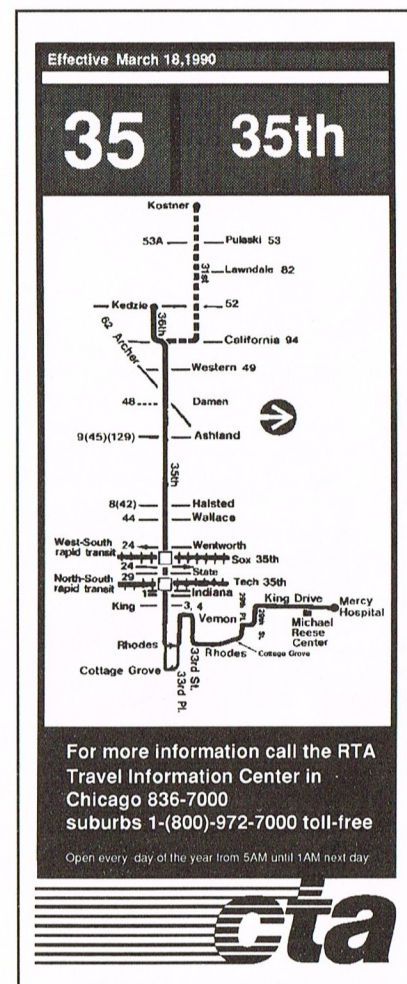
Finding your way around a major North American city is no laughing matter these days, and Chicago is no exception. Were it not for the Chicago Transit Authority, residents and tourists alike would have a tough time getting from A to B in the Windy City.

At the CTA, however, it represents another opportunity to apply technology to an old challenge. The Operations Planning department has responsibility for updating any scheduling or route changes that may occur on the system. These changes are then posted in the form of Public Time Tables (PTT), which are available to passengers.

PTT's consist of a map of the affected route and information regarding the changes. Until very recently, timetables had to be prepared manually by typesetting, cutting and pasting, and a host of other time-consuming tasks. Now, with the installation of CTA's office automation and desktop publishing software, including IBM's ImagEdit 2.0, manual preparation of the timetables is a thing of the past.

"Because the PC's in our schedules department are connected to the mainframe, we can download a schedule directly from a mainframe file, select the bus schedules we want, set up the alignment, import it into a desktop publishing system, and then scan in and create a map of the route," says Paul Olenski, director, Office Systems. "Having the ability to scan in those maps, modify them, and distribute them quickly is a real benefit."

ImagEdit 2.0 is IBM's image scanning and editing program for gray-scale and black and white images. Invented by Dr. Arthur Ryman, who works in the IBM Canada Ltd. Laboratory, and developed by IBM Canada, ImagEdit 2.0 runs under Microsoft Windows. We have the ability to scan, enhance and output high quality images when used in conjunction with a desktop publishing system.



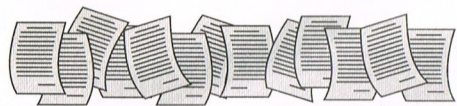
For more information call the RTA
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suburbs 1-(800)-972-7000 toll-free

Open every day of the year from 5AM until 1AM next day

Saving time and saving money are two key objectives driving the CTA in its application of office automation tools. The long-term goal is to reduce the amount of paper required to keep the trains and buses rolling.

"We'd like to get into the full-blown use of image technology so we can minimize the production of paper," says M.I.S. Manager Bernard Connolly. "If we could electronically achieve things like purchase order documents using image processing, and couple that with an electronic distribution system to send an image of the document to a vendor, then all the cost and minutia associated with paper goes away."





Commendations

Levester Sago



(77th Street garage) was thanked for his handling of a No. 29 State Street bus by Bob Long, Jr., who works for the city's Office of Cable Communications. "This marvelous driver was kindly, warm and patient with a group of three adults and 12 schoolchildren, some of whom were handicapped. He helped with their fares and transfers, and waited for everyone, especially two blind children, to get securely in their seats before moving off."

James Rivers



(Limits garage) was considered "well-groomed, polite, and an excellent driver" by Elizabeth Kuehl, of North Winchester Avenue. "He knows his (No.135 Wilson/LaSalle Express) passengers, and takes good care of them. The morning starts off brighter as he greets us with a smile and a cheery 'Good morning.' He handles the bus with great control, once preventing an accident when a sports car and a taxi cut in front of the bus to make a right turn."

Arthur Jordan



(Kedzie garage) was complimented by Sheryl Irving, of West 83rd Place, who rode his No. 52 Kedzie/California bus. "He is very helpful to the the blind and handicapped persons who ride his bus, instructing other riders to move out of the seats reserved for their use if they are needed. He is also considerate to riders seeking directions, and he waits for those hurrying to catch his bus if he sees they have not yet reached the bus stop."

Morris Ellison



(77th Street garage) was praised by the Rev. John Breslin, of East 91st Street, for helping a female member of his church who was attacked while waiting for a (No. 3 King Drive) bus. "As the bus reached the stop, Mr. Ellison saw what had happened, helped her onto the bus, called for police and paramedics, and tried to keep her calm. He stayed with her until help arrived. All she could say later was, 'He saved my life. I'm so thankful.'"



Anniversaries

35 Years

Ovelton Blanchard, Bus District A
Henry Jackson, 69th St.
Michael Keating, Support Svcs./Rail
Eugene Reid, Gen. Building Maint.

30 Years

Richard Griseto, Power Control
James McMahon, North Warehouse
Richard Power, Kedzie
Hugh Short, Bus Service
Anthony Velcich, Support Svcs./Bus

25 Years

Thomas Alfred, Budget Admin.
Briggs Connell, Jr., 69th St.
Griz Craig, North Park
Jerry Franklin, Rail Services
John Gill, South Warehouse
Melvin Hogan, 103rd St.
Lewis Jackson, Building Maint. South
Spellman Jones, Operations Review
Thomas Kato, Administrative Svcs.
William Kopping, Bus District. B
Duane Kuchenny, Support Svcs./Bus
Walter Mack, Jr. Kedzie
Patrick Moroney, Support Shops
Fred Petrozz, Mech. Maint. So.
Leon Rayburn, Agents, North
William Robertson, Jr., Bus Dist. B
Jack Robinson, Limits
Clarence Ross, Kedzie
Theodore Swider, Vehicle Wiring
John Vanooy, Lawndale
Judith Weier, Accounts Receivable
Willard Willette, 103rd St.

Graduate feature discontinued

The *Transit News* graduate feature, in which photographs of the high school, college and professional school graduating sons, daughters and grandchildren of CTA employees and retirees have been published, has been discontinued.

Black employees association schedules monthly meetings

The Association of Concerned Black Transit Employees, organized in 1987 to address issues of parity and career opportunities for Black transit workers, meets the third Monday of each month at 10615 South Halsted Street. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. Membership is open to employees of all levels, both union and exempt personnel.





Retirees

Herbert Schomer, G.O. credit union secretary, retires

Audit clerk Herbert Schomer, of Operations Field Review, retired last month after 48 years of CTA service.

Schomer, best known to co-workers as secretary/treasurer of the General Office Credit Union, was CTA's second 'most-senior' employee, but without question, second to none among the most popular of individuals in CTA service. More than 1,000 co-workers and former employees joined Schomer and his family at his retirement open house which was held in the CTA board room at the Merchandise Mart on April 25.

Special guests for the occasion included Schomer's wife of 50 years, Mrs. Rosemary Schomer, their daughter, Mrs. Lu Anne Hart, her husband, Daniel, and their four children. Schomer's identical twin, Arnold, was unable to be present.

Schomer assumed responsibility for the General Office Credit Union's day to day operations in 1964, and nurtured its membership growth from 365 shareholders to a current enrollment of 2,750 members. He will remain with the organization until a successor is named by the Credit Union board.

Jerry Kurowski, director, Payroll Operations, presented Schomer with a cash



gift, season box seat tickets to the Chicago White Sox games, a videotape recorder, and his CTA retirement packet.

Other presentations included gifts from George West, of Schedules, who is also a Credit Union board member, Lee Cherry and Spellman Jones, Operations Field Review supervisors, and Michelle Cash, Claims/Law. Remarks were made by Leon Wool, assistant counsel, Claims Operations.

Members of the open house committee were: Rita Deakin, Jolena Etherly, Juanita Gandor, Dorothy Harmon, Essie Hubbard, Kay Killeen, Jerry Kurowski, Chet Magalik, Ray Pielstrom, Rita Ritrovato, Finola Seider, Linda Torbik, and Linda Walls.

Special thanks to the Treasury department and the Office of the Secretary of the CTA Board for their cooperation and assistance.

Skilled cager moves on with commencement

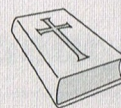


Commencement 1990 at Northwestern University means the end of an athletic career for skilled co-captain Robbin Garrett, a forward on the university women's basketball squad.

Ms. Garrett, a communications major, is the daughter of Hattie Knazze, executive secretary to Robert Desvignes, manager of rail personnel. As a member of the 1989-90 Wildcat Basketball team, Ms. Garrett is credited by her coaches with possessing a strong baseline drive off fast breaks and getting up the floor well.

Ms. Garrett played in all 28 games of the season, including 22 as a starter, and averaged 7.4 points per game and 4.5 rebounds. She also averaged 9.1 points and 5.3 rebounds in Big Ten Conference play.

A 1986 graduate of Whitney Young High School, Ms. Garrett was among the Honorable Mention all-state selection by the *Chicago Sun-Times* in her senior year at Whitney Young. She led the Whitney Young Dolphins to a 25-4 record and a spot in the city championship. She was team captain and MVP in her senior year at Whitney Young.



Memoriam

Peter C. Barrett, 71, Rail Veh. Maint.
John J. Corcoran, 74, Forest Glen
Charles H. Dietz, 83, Forest Glen
Michael J. Egan, 83, 77th Street
Lynn L. Francisco, 86, Electrical
Patrick Geoghegan, 81, South Rail
Francis R. Griffin, 72, West Shops
William M. Hill, 80, 77th Street
Eliot Hirsch, 79, Training/Public Safety
John P. Kane, 74, Transportation
Robert Kilpatrick, 66,
Madison/Wabash
Adam L. Knerr, 55, West Shops
Casimir J. Kotara, 65, West Shops
John E. Lerner, 80, Beverly
Russell P. Lipari, 70,
Materials Mgmt.
Arthur E. Luckey, 74, Agents North
John M. Mahnke, 77, Forest Glen
E. Mikolajczewski, 35, Pers. Admin.
Michael O'Connor, 82, Forest Glen
Peter Rechs, 89, Transportation
Robert Sorensen, 80, North Rail
Elmer J. Stokes, 81, Electrical
Julius Tedeschi, 77, North Avenue
Leopold Woskiewicz, 101,
S&E Machinist
Flossie J. Wyer, 97, Kedzie

Other May retirees

David W. Allen, Madison/Wabash,
29 years
Frances R. Arnold, 69th street, 14 years
Clarence D. Baker, 77th street, 29 years
Thomas J. Brandon, 54th street, 25 years
Cordell A. Bruns, 95th street, 33 years
Olan N. Kellogg, Treasury, 32 years
Lovey L. Lands, 95th street, 17 years
Silvino Leon, Kedzie, 14 years
Edward J. Levy, 77th street, 34 years
Rafael Martinez, Skokie, 17 years
Rudolph McDonald, 77th street, 23 years
William M. Melfi, Forest Glen, 28 years
Edwin A. Olender, North Park, 32 years
Garland M. Rhines, North Park, 29 years
Herbert W. Schomer, Ops. Field Review,
48 years
Alfred D. Thompkins, 61st street, 24 years
Jesse P. Tucker, West Shops, 33 years
Jordan R. Washington, West Shops,
25 years

Disability Retirements

Theodore Butler, Treasury, 32 years
Rosa Irizarry, Limits, 11 years
Marvin Jefferson, Limits, 20 years
Fred L. McKinney, 77th street, 12 years
Claudine Ruckes, 77th street, 11 years
Jackolyn Thomas, Kedzie, 11 years
Thaddaeus Tucker, Limits, 19 years



First lift-equipped bus is delivered

The first CTA lift-equipped bus has been delivered and tested, and is now ready for passenger service.

The CTA will receive a total of 491 buses, of which 476 will be fitted with lifts to accommodate the disabled in wheelchairs. These will be the first buses in Chicago to be placed in main line service for transporting the disabled.

The buses are being manufactured by the Transportation Manufacturing Corporation (TMC), of Roswell, NM. at a contract price of \$87,197,681, or \$173,053 per bus. The new vehicles are expected to be delivered to the CTA early this summer.

Each vehicle will provide seating for 39 passengers when there are no wheelchair riders, or 33 seats when two wheelchair positions are in use.



The seating arrangement will have double seats on the driver's side and single seats on the opposite side for better passenger circulation.

The buses will also have sliding windows which open, and hopper-type standee (vented) windows that also open.

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