

Transitions

New York City Transit Authority

Car Equipment Department

September 1988

THE PROBLEM "STOPS" AT JAMAICA

The South Division's Jamaica Shop is the largest maintenance shop in Car Equipment, boasting a 1,052 car fleet. This also makes it larger than all other U.S. Transit Authorities, except Chicago. The fleet is composed of both R46 and R32 cars in service on the E, F, G, R, and JFK lines.

Mini-Fleets

As a maintenance shop, Jamaica's primary responsibility is to perform inspections and to troubleshoot problems on cars removed from service. To keep its fleet running at top performance, the shop performs 18 to 20 inspections daily, seven days a week. The entire fleet is divided into 13 "mini-fleets". Each "mini" is assigned to a team of six car inspectors and one supervisor who are responsible for each car in their assigned fleet. Each month a performance report is generated for each individual team who will meet with their deputy superintendent to discuss how problems can be solved and improvements made. "I'm really proud of all the inspection teams; they really take pride in their work", says **Frank DiFazio**, Deputy Superintendent, Inspections. All the deputy superintendents from the various work areas, **Jerry Patterson**, **Gerry Meyers**, **George Salerno**, **Vinny Lanzon** and **John Warner**, feel that way about the individual teams they head up.

A Mini-Overhaul

It was obvious back in 1986 that the R46 car class was performing poorly. At that time those cars had an MDBF of about only 9,800 miles. (MDBF refers to the **Mean Distance Between Failure**; this is the average distance a subway car travels between breakdowns.) "This performance was unacceptable", says **Hank Insinna**, General Superintendent, Jamaica, "We had to take the initiative; we couldn't wait for an overhaul of these cars; we had to take the bull by the horns."



Supervisor Fred Commike goes over the day's work with some of the members of Team Number 8. On top are Sol Bove (left) "Rick" Riccobono (right) and standing left to right Steve Conway, Ron Dahlquist, and Ron Vath.

It was decided that the problems needed to be diagnosed and addressed. "We pulled together our best resources: our car inspectors, our supervisors, and our managers and sat down together to figure out what was going wrong", stated **Ernie Van Glahn**, Superintendent. "We felt that when the R46 was received back in 1975 that it was ahead of its time. It had a lot of electronic devices that were not needed. The biggest problem was in the P Wire." A 19 step workscope was devised and a goal was set to have the R46 car class reach a 12 month moving average MDBF of 16,600 by December 1988.

The plan called for the identification of "poor performers" and treating those cars first. The cited car is taken out of service and four major modifications are performed, including the replacement of electric portions with trainline jumpers between the A and B cars. Ten components are replaced, including the "P" wire

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Car Equipment Department

JAMAICA

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Supervisor Mike Casaula makes notation on checklist as Car Inspectors Varghese Daniel (left) and Sivaraman Nair (right) change the side sign.

generator, and an additional nine items are cleaned, adjusted, gauged and replaced, if necessary. The car is then track tested and a complete car appearance upgrade is performed. This includes repainting bonnets and blue stripes, and extensive cleaning inside and out. As a result, the 12 month moving average MDBF has been increased to 14,731. In addition, in the month of May, 1988, the R46 fleet achieved an MDBF of 18,263. This is the highest mileage achieved since May of 1983. These bold accomplishments are credited to the entire workforce of the Jamaica Shop and Lou Flaxman and his staff from Field Engineering South who added the technical expertise to make the job happen.

Expansion is the word ...

... both in operation and size. Under the direction of Superintendent Bob Smith, the Off-Tour and Terminal Operations will be expanded to include the new Archer Avenue line scheduled to open in December 1988. The present operations include 179th Street, Continental Avenue, and 4th Avenue/95th

Street. In addition, the Jamaica facility will begin to undergo reconstruction at the end of 1988 to expand the 52 year old facility. The reconstruction will include four additional indoor tracks and a wheel truing machine. The yard expansion will include 24 tracks for laying up trains. It seems the reward for good work is more work. "We don't kid ourselves; we know part of our success is due to the cooperation we receive from other departments, in particular Walter Whaley's staff at RTO who really helps in getting the cars to us." stated Hank Insinna.



Car Inspectors Ernie Martin (left) and Mike Lindsay (right) change the pressure switch while working under an R46.

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Watch Carefully Learn and Live



(It's better than
live and learn!)

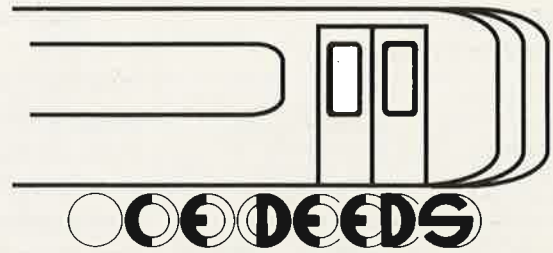
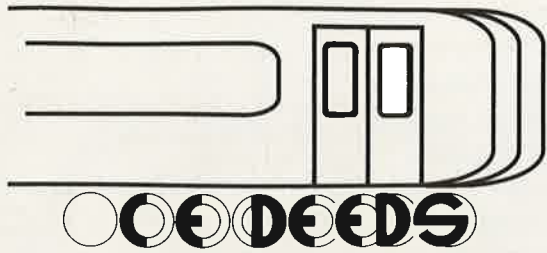
**"Give me a problem.
I love it."**



On an R46, Charlie Barker checks the converter/inverter.

Yes, Charlie Barker really said that. Charlie, a Car Inspector at Jamaica since 1979, loves to be presented with a challenge and as a result he has quite a success record in troubleshooting. For instance, there was a six month reoccurring problem with a train on the JFK line. The three car train would fail and power could not be restored. Charlie was called to help. He suspected the problem was in the controller; he checked it to see what position it was in when failure occurred. It was in the number three position; it should have been in the number two position for restart. Charlie adjusted the interlocks so it would shut down in the number two position and could be powered up again. Charlie came to the Transit Authority with a background in electronics from the West Indies where he worked on buses (he likes trains better) and the Thermo Dialectric Company in New York. Charlie spends his leisure time with his wife, Violet and five children Bruce, Courtney, Errol, Audrey, and Brian. "In addition to doing excellent work, Charlie is always around when he's needed. That makes him extra special." stated Deputy Superintendent Jerry Patterson, who is responsible for Barker's work area.

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Heroes displaying their award citations in Dick Goodlatte's office. They are (left to right) Car Cleaners David Moses and Keith Pettaway; Dick Goodlatte, CMO; and Arthur Elliot, MMC.

On the platform level of the Transit Exhibit, happy suggestion winners gather with management representatives after the June 8, 1988 Awards Ceremony.

Rescued From Tracks

On May 3, 1988 at about 11 A.M., Car Cleaners **David Moses** and **Keith Pettaway** were at their normal work stations on the Continental Avenue Station when they heard an approaching G train signaling for assistance and saw a passenger leaving the train with a bleeding arm. The passenger then climbed down on the express track roadbed. It appeared that he was trying to commit suicide by touching the third rail. Both Moses and Pettaway climbed down after the passenger and tried to calm him. He made slight contact with the rail once and fell back. At this point both Cleaners grabbed the passenger and kept him restrained until the police arrived.

Highway Rescue

MMC **Arthur Elliot** left for work at the Coney Island Overhaul Shop around 7:30 A.M. on March 11, 1988 and traveled his usual route along State Road on Long Island. He noticed a car in the opposing lane rolling over. Elliot made the first available U-turn and came back to the accident. The driver was unconscious on the floor in the rear of the automobile, wedged between the back seat and front seat. Elliot opened the car hood and saw a fire. The car became engulfed in black smoke and with the assistance of two other passersby, Elliot leaned into the back seat through a broken window and pulled the man from the car. A few seconds later the automobile exploded.

SUGGESTION SUCCESS

The Suggestion Program is alive and well. So far this year the Transit Authority Suggestion Committee has held two award ceremonies. The CED big winner was **Dom Lodispoto** who received a \$3,500 award for suggesting the purchase of small, Electro-Brazing Units for the repair of traction motors.

The greatest number of awards went jointly to **Frank Maniscalco** and **Charles Monaco**, who each received \$1,503 in award money for ten approved suggestions. So far this year almost \$20,000 was awarded in prize money to CED employees. KEEP THOSE GOOD IDEAS COMING!

Congratulations to:

Joseph Albano
Arthur Brown
John Bumbala
Richard L. Campbell
John Cascone, Jr.
Carmine Cavallere

John J. Concannon
Andrew Czyz
George DeAngelis
Cono M. DeLillo
Joseph DeLuca
Frank DiFazio

These men represent the finest people the Transit Authority has to offer and the Car Equipment Department is proud to call them members of the CED team.



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SUGGESTIONS

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- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Paul Etter | George F. Oakley |
| John E. Feeley | Hector Perez |
| Robert V. Filan | Nick Petruzzo |
| Richard H. Frank | Patrick Quigley |
| Herman Grossman | Victor Reveron |
| Frank W. Gurrera | Pasquale J. Scognamillo |
| Neville B. Hamilton | Raymond F. Shaw |
| Michael Hanna, Jr. | Frank Slisz |
| Paul Kisielewicz | Robert C. Smith |
| John M. Little, Jr. | Joseph Soriano |
| Vito LoBalsamo | Louis J. Spina |
| Dom Lodispoto | John C. Steiger |
| Frank Maniscalco | Denis Sundin |
| Andrew Mazella | Alfred Tarsitano |
| Raymond Molina | Alvah B. Taylor |
| Charles Monaco | Louis Thomas |
| Norman Moskowitz | Alan C. Turner |
| Jose Mosquera | Kuzhimannil Varghese |
| | Pat A. Viola |

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT

30 Car Maintainer Trainees Make it to Car Inspector!

After 18 months of training, 30 Car Maintainer Trainees passed the program's graduation exam. They have now been promoted to the title of Car Inspector. All cleaners in the Car Equipment Department are eligible to apply for the program. A new promotional examination is scheduled for the spring of 1989.

Increase Your Skills!

The CED Resource Library offers texts and video tapes (VHS half-inch format) covering such topics as managerial / supervisory skills, self-development, strategic planning, and team building. If you are interested in borrowing any of the material, contact **Mavis Lyons**, Manager of Employee Development at (718) 330-8599.

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Over the past nine months CED employees with 30 years or more of service were recognized for their consistent support at the Transit Authority. In separate ceremonies on November 21, 1987; April 30, 1988 and June 16, 1988; 53 CED employees along with employees, from other TA departments, were honored at a dinner at Terrace on the Park and each received a momento celebrating his or her service. In speaking with some of these employees, **Dick Goodlatte**, Chief Mechanical Officer, said, "I really value your work and appreciate your endeavors and experience. I hope we can keep this relationship going for many more years."

Congratulations to:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Edward Pazoga | 45 Years |
| Rosemonde Rutledge | 45 Years |

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Adelle Schratte | 44 Years |
| Thomas Coombs | 42 Years |
| Patrick Hoey | 42 Years |
| Anthony Barkovich | 41 Years |
| Anthony DiGraziano | 41 Years |
| Robert Dowling | 41 Years |
| Vincent J. Lanzon | 41 Years |
| Frank N. Smaldino | 41 Years |
| Walter Tumm | 41 Years |
| James D. DeMartini | 40 Years |
| William Dunning | 40 Years |
| Carmine Festa | 40 Years |
| Theodore Kacsik | 40 Years |
| Lawrence Laskorski | 40 Years |
| James Marshall | 40 Years |
| Benjamin Smith, Jr. | 40 Years |
| Harold Brookes | 39 Years |
| John S. Cox | 39 Years |
| Cynthia Hope | 39 Years |
| Reginald Manning | 39 Years |
| John Cody Jr. | 38 Years |
| Frank D'Allessandro | 38 Years |
| Vincent D'Amore | 38 Years |
| Victor DeSanto | 38 Years |
| Michael Hanna, Jr. | 38 Years |
| Joseph Lapunzina | 38 Years |
| Harold Pederson | 38 Years |
| Joseph Pitrez | 38 Years |
| Harry Jenkins | 35 Years |
| Paul Placko | 35 Years |
| Joseph Gagliano | 34 Years |
| Steve Lane | 34 Years |
| Teddy Oliver | 34 Years |
| Irwin Cohen | 33 Years |
| Vincent Conserva | 33 Years |
| Thomas DeLillo | 33 Years |
| James Lukenovich | 33 Years |
| Frank Scimone | 33 Years |
| Vito Waglione | 33 Years |
| Harvey Balch | 32 Years |
| Peter Miller | 32 Years |
| Robert Vitale | 32 Years |
| Ernest Alston | 31 Years |
| Edward M. Bozant | 30 Years |
| David Ernest | 30 Years |
| Anthony Montanino | 30 Years |
| Salvatore Montanino | 30 Years |
| Anthony Piscioti | 30 Years |
| George Richards | 30 Years |
| Edwin Sackie | 30 Years |
| Joseph Vetere | 30 Years |

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Some happy Anniversary celebrants at the first ceremony on November 21, 1987.

City Council Visits 207th Street Overhaul Shop



They saw it for themselves—the progress we've made. At their recent visit are (left to right) David L. Gunn, President, New York City Transit Authority; Benny Salomone, Superintendent Truck Shop; Peter F. Vallone, Council Majority Leader; and Council Members June Eisland and Carol Greitzer. **CED**