

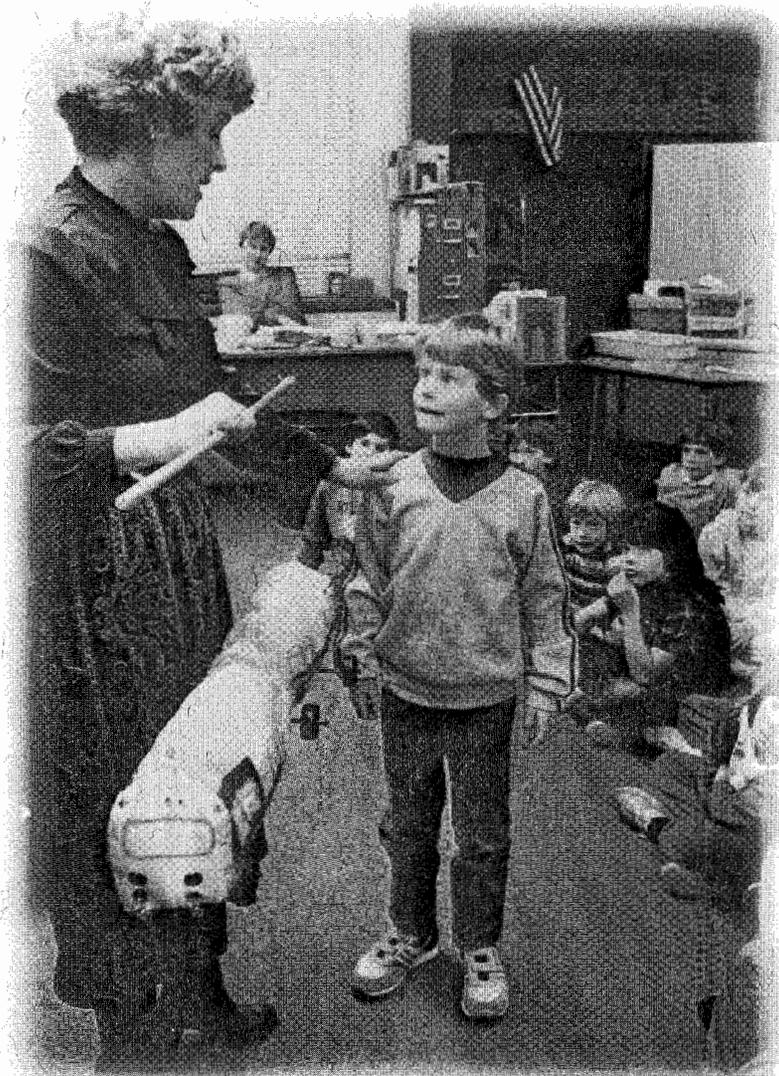
Better Than Promised



*An informal history of
the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle*



By Bob Lane



Roy Scully/Seattle Times Photo

Students from Soos Creek Elementary School watch attentively as Elaine Chapman demonstrates a model of an articulated bus in 1983.

Line-worker helpers Renee Nash, left, and Christy Fawcett prepare a support cable for the trolley-overhead system. In 1979, Metro rebuilt and expanded its trolley system, the first such renewal in the United States.



Ned Ahrens Photo



Water quality employees, Dave Waddell, left, and Gary Yoshida take a break during stream monitoring work in King County.

Ned Ahrens Photo

Foreword

By Carolyn Purnell

Looking back over Metro's more than three decades of service to the Seattle-King County region, I am struck by the sense of pride exhibited by the men and women who staffed the agency. Employees took great pride in their jobs, pride in their accomplishments and pride in their community. And rightly so. Never before had local government taken on such critical regional challenges and responsibilities. And never before had government responded like Metro did.

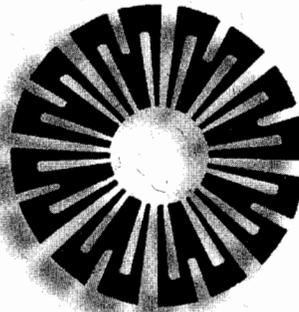
Metro wasn't just another place to work; it was a place where caring people could make a difference in the area's quality of life. Clean water. Efficient and affordable public transportation. These two forces drove the Metro mission and motivated Metro employees.

From the cleanup of Lake Washington and Elliott Bay to the development of the regional transportation system, Metro always delivered. And Metro never forgot its responsibility to the public whose tax dollars supported the agency's services. Citizen involvement is what helped make Metro special and what accounted for the agency's success.

I had the privilege of being Metro's last executive director. While my tenure had its share of challenges and heartache, it is an honor to have served. In spite of the many distractions the consolidation with King County brought, we remained focused on our mission. I am proud of the outstanding people of the Metro organization. They always conducted themselves professionally, with character and grace.

Countless people contributed to the Metro story and to our success. I thank the many volunteers who worked with us over the years to make our accomplishments possible. I thank our elected and appointed officials who guided the agency and made the tough decisions. I thank all the citizens who cared enough about their community to get involved in water quality and public transportation issues. I thank the many businesses and other organizations that worked with us on cooperative ventures. I thank the legislators, both at the state and federal level, who supported our programs, projects and services.

And finally, I thank each and every employee who gave their energy, creativity and talent to always deliver "better than promised."



METRO



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Princess Sparklingclear banishes Polly Pollution and King Algae from Lake Washington during a light-hearted ceremony celebrating Metro's achievements.