

LAST 'BIG RED CARS' ROLL ON TWO LINES

Los Angeles to Newport Beach and Bellflower to Santa Ana Trolleys Replaced by Busses

SANTA ANA, July 2—After 44 years, the big red cars quit running early today on the Pacific Electric lines between Bellflower and Santa Ana and from Los Angeles to Newport Beach.

The traditional "last ride" carried a happy-go-lucky load of sentimental model railroaders, long-time commuters, and others anxious to be present when the final trolley was pulled down. They scrawled with chalk on the sides of the cars, set off torpedoes under the wheels and sang songs.

After 44 Years

This was the beginning of the end for two of the interurban lines the Pacific Electric threaded out into the areas adjacent to Los Angeles after the turn of the century. Now busses are being substituted on many lines. It was in 1905 that the young railroad bought its right of way on a direct line into Orange County and service was started in 1906. The railroad brought growth to such communities as Bellflower, Artesia, Cypress, Stanton, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Orange, the latter city served by a spur line in later years.

Little waiting stations were built at frequent intervals and service on the double-track line was far faster than the recent schedules, hampered by single-track stretches, roadbeds and outmoded cars.

Veteran Motorman

Pulling the whistle cord on the last Santa Ana run was K. M. Brown of Gardena, with the PE the last 24 years and in railroading since 1914. He's changing over to a Diesel freight locomotive on the same line. Conductor Paul Weide, who's been bringing the last midnight car into Santa Ana many years, used his 15-year seniority to get a job on the Bellflower-Los Angeles leg

which remains in service. He was on vacation and missed the last run, however, so a substitute conductor, J. J. Thomas, had the distinction of picking up the last fares.

A fleet of shiny new busses was parked in the Santa Ana station yard, which will supplement the older busses and run express service to Los Angeles during peak hours.

Arcadia Names New Hostess

ARCADIA, July 2—Mrs. Floyd E. Day has been named official City Hostess here replacing Mrs. Madeline Hoops, who resigned due to poor health. Mrs. Hoops set a record of interviewing more than 1500 new residents during her two years in office, according to Charles Shugert of committee in charge of the project.