

MEET THE DRIVERS**Marty Monia Heads District Bus Crew**

ED. NOTE: Beginning this week, the Valley Press will run a series of articles on those little-heralded heroes of the Palmdale School District, the bus drivers. Burdened with responsibility of safely transporting youngsters to school and home each day, these men — and women, too — must be careful, experienced drivers; parttime mobile children sitters, and occasionally mild disciplinarians.

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Martin "Marty" Monia is the boss of the Palmdale Elementary School District bus corps.

Properly he should be addressed as "bus superintendent" but Marty isn't a man to stand much on formality.

With 13 years' association with the Palmdale School District, Marty says that he's only known "two bad kids in all that time."

Kids will be kids but the percentage of bad kids is "awfully small," he says.

Under his supervision are eight big buses and one small bus, on which Marty and his crew do complete mechanical maintenance and repair.

Monia and his wife, Edith, live at 403 E. Avenue R-4, with his son, Richard, 23. Their daughter, Mrs. Ellen Bishop, and her husband live at 908 E. Avenue R with their children, Joe, 8; Julia, 6; and Robert, 3.

The Palmdale bus superintendent has lived in Antelope Valley for 30 years. During World War II he was in the Navy, serving

as a gunner's mate on an LST in the South Pacific. He was severely wounded when a bomb hit



MARTIN 'MARTY' MONIA

his LST at Bouganville, wiping out most of the men.

Marty likes hunting, fishing, and, around home, he enjoys growing flowers.

Part of the secret of his horticultural success is the use of rabbit manure. "It won't burn," he says.

Marty is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Palmdale chapter.

But the thing that Marty takes the most pride in is the fact that in his years in Palmdale school bus work:

"There has never been a casualty."