

Orbie Makes the News
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News photo by Tom Conroy/Staff

Sanitation worker feeds new Orbital Collection System truck.

Trash-Eating Fatso New Collection Giant

By DONALD SINGLETON

A four-block area of the Hunts Point section of the Bronx was a lot cleaner than surrounding neighborhoods yesterday, following a two-week test of a new trash-collection system.

The test involved a new type of garbage truck as well as a program of distributing free plastic garbage bags to the 2,600 families living in the area.

The truck, officially named the Orbital Collection System but nicknamed the "Orbie," is one of three new prototype vehicles being tested by the Sanitation Department, according to Acting Sanitation Commissioner Martin Lang.

While the present truck being used by the city's sanitation men holds only about 25,000 pounds of trash, the Orbie and the other two prototypes hold up to 40,000 pounds.

Hope to Save One Trip or Shift

"Presently, a typical collection truck makes two trips to the disposal point each shift," Lang explained, "but with these larger-capacity trucks, we hope it may be possible to save one trip per shift. This would mean more of the men's time would be spent on actual collection, and productivity would be increased considerably."

Lang said the manufacturer of the new truck has supplied the city with a free vehicle for testing, as have the other two manufacturers. The Orbie's manufacturer also distributed plastic bags with educational materials related to their use.

"The plastic bags reduced post-collection litter in the streets to a considerable degree," Lang said. "I only hope we don't have withdrawal symptoms, now that the test is completed and there are no more bags being distributed."

The commissioner said that the three new trucks have been undergoing tests in various parts of the city for several months. "Within two months we should be in a position to begin evaluating the results," he said. "If one of the trucks meets all our standards, we'll begin purchasing that type of vehicle to replace our present fleet of 2,000 collection trucks."



The New York Times/Edward Hassner

BAGS USED IN GARBAGE-COLLECTION TEST: Plastic bags that had been distributed earlier to homeowners and building superintendents in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, and used for garbage disposal, being picked up by sanitationmen yesterday. A two-week test of the Orbital Collection System ended yesterday. According to Acting Sanitation Commissioner Martin Lang, the shredder-compactor vehicle used is unique.

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Putting the Trash in Orbit



Sanitationmen load "Orbie," nickname of the Orbital Collection System. The city has begun experimenting with the new type of garbage truck, at the manufacturer's expense, in the Hunts Point section of The Bronx. It holds up to 40,000 pounds of garbage, compared to 25,000 pounds in present trucks. "Orbie" compacts the stuff in its whale-like body by use of revolving screw.

Post Photo by Arthur Pomerantz

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