

Vol. 17, No. 10

April 1975

# Transit-Times



Historic photo of early bus found



## Our 'Stockholders' Write

A note to say the courtesy shown by your driver, G. T. Jacobs, was great. A young blind boy was waiting to transfer on Line 91. This young man was mixed up or lost. Your driver saw him in the crowd and with the help of another passenger got him on the bus with no time lost.

Everyone felt happy over this good deed.

Mrs. Margaret Griffiths  
Hayward

\* \* \*

After 16 years of traveling with AC Transit to Alameda from San Francisco, it seems time to tell you how highly I think of its management and its drivers. You have not missed a run once in all these years on the "O" Line.

I especially want to commend Larry Felty, who has kept an eye out for me as I come galloping down the street to make my connection.

Mrs. Lilia Dannenberg  
San Francisco

\* \* \*

As a Fairway Park commuter, I'm getting concerned about the first bus out. They keep moving the time up and leaving later until the 7:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. people can hardly get to work on time. I can't see why they can't move the schedule back to 6:10 or 6:15 a.m.

I would appreciate seeing what can be done.

Nancy J. Harris  
Hayward

(After evaluation, Line R-F was scheduled to leave Fairway Park at 6:10 a.m., arriving in San Francisco at 7:03 a.m.—Ed.)



Kudos! To your driver Leonard Morrow. He is extremely friendly and courteous, helping old people off the bus.

John Maybury  
Albany

\* \* \*

I wish to commend driver William H. Clark, who handled two "touchy" situations in the half hour which it took me to reach my destination.

You are fortunate to have such a human being who is diplomatic, confident, learned in the psychology of handling people, and an overall integrated person.

Margo Longanecker  
Oakland

\* \* \*

I would like to commend Mike Zipser for his good driving. I was very impressed by the way he made sure people got off the bus safely and how he used his signal lights.

I also want to say how your other drivers are very careful. I appreciate their patience with us patrons.

Linda S. Keating  
Hayward

\* \* \*

Yesterday, I took Line 43. Being from out of the area, I didn't know just how I could get to the Oakland Museum. Bus driver Emanuel Johnson informed me the bus went right by the museum.

He was very courteous, not only to me, but everyone he came in contact with. You should be proud to have such a driver.

L. G. Stats  
Pollock Pines, Calif.

*Pat and Mike to tell District's story*

## Curry named News Bureau Editor Former reporter Murphy joins staff

Mike Curry, news writer in AC Transit's Public Information Department for the past three years, has been named News Bureau Editor for the District.

Curry replaces Joe McCord, who held the post for the past five years.

McCord, who also is a military reserve officer, has been appointed to attend a year-long advanced course with the Army at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Curry, 35, is a native of Wyoming and a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was a secondary school English and Social Studies teacher for eight years and a reporter and freelance writer for four years before joining AC Transit.



Patrick N. Murphy, 25, a former San Francisco Chronicle reporter, has stepped into Curry's job.

Murphy, born in Wichita, Kansas, joined AC Transit on April 1. Before working for the Chronicle, he was a reporter with the Berkeley Gazette, the Richmond Independent and other papers in the Midwest and East.

Another Murphy, but not related to Patrick, has been promoted in the District's Information Center.

Kathi Johnson Murphy was appointed training supervisor this month and will train new information clerks

as well as helping with retraining when AC Transit expands its operations in areas such as Fremont, Newark and central Contra Costa County.

## East Bay travel guide Free to transit users

AC Transit again this year is offering an illustrated, 30-page booklet detailing historical and recreational points of interest accessible by bus.

Included in the free pamphlet are directions to museums, parks, antique shops, botanical gardens and other points passengers may wish to note on an informal tour of the East Bay. West Bay connections from AC Transit transbay service are included.

Persons interested in securing a free copy may write to: Explore East Bay Excursion Trails, AC Transit, 508 16th St., Oakland, CA 94612 or call 654-7878.

## 'Pill Hill' service To begin in May

Improved bus service for Oakland's "Pill Hill" hospital and dental facilities is scheduled to start May 5, pending improvement of street conditions by the City of Oakland.

The new service involves rerouting of Lines 59 and 76-Broadway Terrace-Montclair buses via Hawthorne Ave. and Summit St. to 29th St., providing better access for persons going to the medical and dental buildings.

Service will be operated from approximately 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and will be on a one year trial basis.



Pat Murphy





**BASEBALL BUFFS** — Winning Key Route team members from left include Tony Thomas, John Perry, Ben Radford, Irving Cowan, George Griffin, Ed Newell, Manny Correa, Joe Peters, Joe Goveia, Bill Harrison and mascot Roy F. Peters.

## Crosby Trophy rekindles memories Of early drivers' winning spirit

An artifact discovered recently indicates one of AC Transit's predecessors had on its payroll not just good sports, but real winners.

The "Crosby Trophy" for baseball championships, vied for by Key Route team members and the Oakland, Antioch and Eastern Railway players as early as 1914, has found a permanent home at the California Railway Museum after years of unnoticed storage.

History of the cup's travels show Key Route players were winners more often than losers.

Members of the San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Railways Ball Team were made up of men in the mechanical department of Key Route Pier. It had a talent for winning the championship, as it did in 1919 and again in 1920.

Although the cup has tarnished slightly, the winning team's name boldly engraved on it indicates the

pride with which they competed.

When the S.F.-O.T. took custody of the cup, J. W. Brom, team manager and chief clerk to the company's vice president, became protector of the trophy.

Recently, Brom's son, Paul, discovered the trophy stored with other forgotten items and decided it deserved renewed attention.

His presentation of the trophy to the transit museum at Rio Vista Junction increases an already fascinating collection of old Key Route items on display.



**ARTIFACTS ARRIVE**—Vernon Sappers, California Railway Museum curator, cradles recently rediscovered trophy and picture.



**MONTCLAIR MOBILITY**—A 1921 vintage S.F.-O.T. coach transports prospective land buyers to Montclair.

## Early Montclair growth fed by bus

It was 1921. Warren G. Harding was President of the United States.

The First World War had been over for two and one-half years and Prohibition was in effect.

It was an era in Montclair when land investors looked at lots for as little as \$1,500 per quarter-acre. In some cases that sum was more than a year's wages.

And the way to get to Montclair in 1921 was by bus, as is revealed in an old photograph given to AC Transit by Fresno transportation buff James H. Harrison.

AC Transit's "Grandpappy," the San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Railways, put bus Number One on the run from Piedmont Station, located at Piedmont Ave. and 41st St. in Oakland, to Montclair where people saw their future and their fortune in the hills.

Passengers could ride the train to Piedmont Station and transfer free of charge to the bus which would take them to the tract office operated by the Realty Syndicate, located at the corner of Moraga Road and LaSalle Ave. The office was a tent.

Bus No. 1 took its first load of potential buyers to Montclair on May 21, 1921, according to old records.

However, the records indicate the run to Montclair was not the first bus line. The first line was started nearly a

week earlier on May 16 and traveled from the end of the old No. 7 street car line at Ygnacio Ave. and Trask St., Oakland, via Foothill Blvd., Seminary Ave. and Trenot St. to Mills College.

## Tinsel Town buys coaches, Debut set for TV movie

Thousands of commuters, who have been riding older AC Transit buses for a number of years, may recognize two familiar coaches when the television movie "Heist" hits the small screen.

Or, for that matter, they may see one of the 1700 or 1800 series coaches in places as far apart as the South Pacific and Alaska.

The District put 70 of its surplus buses up for sale after the recent arrival of 120 new Flxible buses. Most had been used in peak hour service on the Bay Bridge.

Two were sold to Warner Bros. for roles in the television movie. Color photos show that one has been turned into a "hippy wagon," with painted flowers and the word "Peace" on the front. The other, in a yellow and white paint scheme, is involved in a crash scene at a police road block.

Thirty-three of the buses already have been sold at an appraised price of \$1,850, less tires. One is to go into operation on the island of Tonga in the South Pacific. Another is destined for Gustavus, Alaska, and a remote bus line.

Five went to South Lake Tahoe, where they are part of the fleet serving the south shore.

The others were purchased by small bus lines.

**THE COVER**—Driver and passengers pose at Key Route's Piedmont station on what is believed to be the first day of service on the Montclair line — May 21, 1921. Transit Times would like to know if any of its readers can positively identify the photo or anyone in it. The photo is courtesy of James Harrison of Fresno.



## Bank robbery loot among memories, Driver plans quiet retirement at lake

Three AC Transit drivers are entering retirement after a combined 85 years behind the wheel — years which, at least for one of them, include the memory of a half-hearted bank robber who left behind \$2,000 aboard the driver's coach.

It was in the mid-50's when Samuel D. Totten picked up a rather wild-eyed passenger along the old Key System's line 40.

"When he paid for his fare, he had money bulging from just about every pocket," said Totten, of Orinda, who retires May 1, after 29 years of service.

Tempered by years of occasionally startling occurrences, Totten said he thought nothing more of his passenger until the man bolted from the exit unexpectedly.

Totten investigated and found the seat his passenger sat in was covered with large denominations of currency.

Totten, deciding the money was loot from a robbery, quickly called police who handled the matter from there.

Totten looks forward to quieter moments, and a move with his wife, Irene, to a new home on Wye Lake in Washington.

### Tannehill to travel

Driver Eugene V. Tannehill also is enjoying increased leisure time after his retirement April 1. Tannehill, a veteran of 22 years, plans to base at his home in Oakland while spending much of his time in Portland, Ore., visiting relatives.

"In 1943, when I first started, I knew every line. Now they've all changed except maybe one.

"I'm really enjoying retirement because now I don't have to hurry, hurry, hurry..."

Henry Dahl's wife, Antonette, has been awaiting her husband's retirement since she retired last year as

a supermarket checker.

After 34 years as an AC Transit driver, "I want to spend as much time in my garden as I can," Dahl, a San Leandro resident, said.

Should a young man consider a career with AC Transit?

"I took the job because it seemed like a good job to do. As far as I'm concerned, it still is," Dahl said.

## District tops compensation Payments in promptness

AC Transit has received the highest possible ranking for promptness of payment of workers' compensation benefits.

The rankings, determined by the State of California Division of Industrial Accidents, shows AC Transit received a score of 100 out of a possible 100 for the speed with which employees received benefits during the last six months of 1974.

The District is rated in the category of public employers which handle their own insurance.

AC Transit paid 100 percent of all disability claims within 14 days, according to the State report and Smart's Confidential Insurance Bulletin, an insurance trade publication.

Although some smaller public agencies also received rankings of 100, they did not have enough cases to qualify them for the Bulletin.

"We are especially pleased with the rating," Claims Manager Ozro D. Gould said. "What it means is that we are doing the best possible job that can be done. No one in the State of California did better in getting workers' compensation payments for their injured employees than AC Transit did during the last six months of 1974."

## You can see Right through His work

"Mr. Clean," is what they call him. You might see him any place from San Pablo to Hayward, getting things in order.

He is the man who keeps AC Transit bus shelters in top condition—Mike Laurella.

"I just try to provide a place where people will feel comfortable," he says, as he sweeps, washes and dusts.

Laurella cleans as many as thirteen bus shelters each day. And about his work he says, "The people are kind of surprised when I show up, but they seem to appreciate having me there."

Laurella's work for the bus system is practically inherited. His father, Jerry, who retired last year as a body and fender man in the maintenance division after 27 years, was an inspiration for Laurella's going to work for AC Tran-



HE CLEANS UP ON THE JOB—Mike Laurella is a singular man; his full time job is keeping passenger shelters clean.

sit. "I guess it sort of runs in the blood," he says.

Born and raised in the East Bay, Laurella and his wife, Maria, make their home in Richmond. They have an eight-month old daughter Teresa.

The 27-year-old Laurella joined AC Transit in 1969, "And I don't have any plans to change jobs," he says. "This is an opportunity to make people feel better and do a service for them."

Of the nearly 1,900 employees of AC Transit, Laurella is the only one assigned to the job he currently holds. "I just sort of do my own thing," he says, "and I hope people like it."

## Seminary moves toward Year safe-driving mark

Seminary Division bus drivers continued toward a new District-wide safe-driving record in March by topping the other divisions in the safety goal for 11 straight months.

The old record of 15 consecutive months was set by Richmond Division in July, 1971.

The goal for the month of March was 13,250 miles driven per accident.

Seminary drivers' mark last month was 14,893, followed closely by Emeryville Division operators who also surpassed the goal with 13,617 miles per accident.

The entire District's average beat the March safety mark by registering 13,962 miles to an accident.

## First Fremont-Newark change Improves commute convenience

The first Line changes since service was inaugurated late last year in the Newark-Fremont area has brought improved passenger convenience.

In Fremont, Line 22-Warm Springs provides better access to bus service from the large Safeway distribution center as well as the General Motors Plant there.

Patrons using AC Transit Line 29 in Newark have a faster trip as a result of an improvement in running time.

In addition, Saturday service was changed from an hourly schedule to a bus every 45 minutes.

For Fremont's residential patrons, Line 22 now loops through neighborhood areas between Prune Avenue and Osgood Road.



# NEW EMPLOYEES

AC Transit welcomed these  
new workers in January,  
February and March



David Allard  
Maintenance  
Richmond



Eugene Arnett  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Louis Bartholomew  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Richard Benton  
Transportation  
Emeryville



John Carr  
Transportation  
Emeryville



David Carner  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Faye Cooper  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Virginia Curran  
Data Processing  
General Office



Diane Dooley  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Sam Duncan  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Kenneth Dykes  
Maintenance  
Seminary



John Eversole  
Transportation  
Seminary



Fred File  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Carl Gaines  
Finance  
General Office



Laverne Gibson  
Transportation  
Emeryville



George Graner  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Renee Havana  
Finance  
General Office



Daniel Holle  
Transportation  
Seminary



Al Lewis  
Transportation  
Seminary



Juan Limlaco  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Beverly Lowe  
Finance  
General Office



James Montano  
Maintenance  
Richmond



Wilhelmina Noel  
Dial-A-Ride  
Richmond



Stanton Nusom  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Carolyn Phillips  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Donel Poston  
Transportation  
Seminary



Joseph Rodrigues  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Robert Schoonard  
Transportation  
Seminary



Johnnie Sorrell  
Stores  
Emeryville



Tomasita Tanuz  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Cheryl Torrence  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Anne Vicary  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Wilbert Wooten  
Transportation  
Seminary





**CRUSADERS HONORED**—AC Transit's United Crusade leaders were honored at a recent ceremony. Accepting in top photograph for the Personnel Department are, from left: Andrew Phillips, Harold Davis and John Rose. In bottom photograph recipients of "Merit Awards" are, back row, from left: Ben F. Williams, Carl Knutson, Ernie Frazer, David Rodrigues, Dennis Houghtelling and Andrew Phillips; front row from left: R. L. Van Dine, J. R. Williams, Glenn Ashmore and Sterling Stewart.

## District employees honored by United Crusade

AC Transit and a number of its employees were honored by United Bay Area Crusade recently for what was termed an "outstanding achievement" in raising money to support UBAC activities.

Altogether, the 1974 UBAC effort among District employees raised \$17,078, far above early projections of

\$10,000.

The largest single donation was by driver Richard L. Van Dine, who pledged \$20 per week.

Purchase and Stores had a 100 percent sign-up of donors with Seminary Division Maintenance second with 96 percent.

**THANKS TO YOU**—"Appreciation" awards went to various departments for their exceptional efforts. In the left photo, District Chairman Walter Martin, far left, stands with Avonne Bradshaw, G. L. Gross and Irene Bieneman while UBAC Director Chet Wrenn holds the sign which says it all. In photo at right, Martin presents a "Merit Award" to John Krajcar whose Purchasing and Stores Dept. had a 100 percent sign-up of givers.



## East Bay up, transbay down in February

Transbay lines continued to show losses when compared to February a year ago; however, East Bay lines show growth in revenue and patronage figures during February.

Total passenger revenue for February was \$1,222,680, down \$127,012 or 9.4 percent below the \$1,349,692 collected during February, 1974. Transbay revenue of \$530,496 was down \$149,174 or 21.9 percent below the \$679,670 dropped into fare boxes a year ago. East Bay revenue, however, was \$692,184, up \$22,162 or 3.3 percent above the \$670,022 collected during February, 1974.

AC Transit buses carried 4,276,890 passengers during February, down 276,208, or 6.1 percent from the 4,553,098 carried during the month of February, 1974. Passenger losses were recorded on transbay lines, where patronage dropped 394,814 or 28.7 percent, down to 982,145 from the 1,376,959 who rode during the same month a year earlier. On East Bay lines, however, patronage for the month totaled 3,294,745, up 118,606 or 3.7 percent above the February, 1974, figure of 3,176,139.

Nationally, the transit industry indicated a decrease of 1.25 percent in total passengers carried.

Operating costs during February were \$3,274,718, up \$888,485 or 37.2 percent above year-ago expenses of \$2,386,233. The system operated 2,225,106 miles of service during February, an increase of 122,380 miles of 5.8 percent above the 2,102,726 miles operated during February, 1974.

Total income of \$3,447,080 left a deficit of \$67,933 in meeting full bond debt requirements and operating costs.







## Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting March 26, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized sale of one 1949 model bus to American-International Bus Exchange at not less than the appraised price, on motion of Director McDonnell.

- Authorized trip of one District representative to Washington, D.C. to assist UMTA in development of Master Plan Study of District facilities, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

\* \* \*

At a regular meeting April 9, the Board of Directors:

- Awarded contract for furnishing uniform shirts for drivers to The Hub-Schneider's Uniforms, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.

- Authorized entering into an agreement with Amalgamated Transit Union pursuant to Section 13(c) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 as amended, on motion of Director Rinehart.

- Directed sending of letter to UMTA outlining District position on charter operation, on motion of Director Berk.

- Authorized participation in 14th Urban Mass Transportation Management Seminar, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

- Authorized board members and management staff to attend APTA

### Transit-Times

Published monthly by the  
**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT**

508 16th St., Oakland, California 94612  
Telephone (415) 654-7878

Joseph McCord, Editor

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KIMI FUJII	President
JOHN McDONNELL	Vice President
CHESTER C. McGUIRE, JR.	Director at Large
RAY RINEHART	Director at Large
ROY NAKADEGAWA	Ward I
WILLIAM E. BERK	Ward II
WILLIAM J. BETTENCOURT	Ward IV

#### MANAGEMENT

ALAN L. BINGHAM	General Manager
HAROLD M. DAVIS	Assistant General Manager for Personnel
VIRGINIA B. DENNISON	Public Information Mgr.
J. DALE GOODMAN	Transportation Manager
OZRO D. GOULD	Claims Manager
JOHN A. KRAJCAR	Purchases and Stores Mgr.
ANTHONY R. LUCCHESI	Maintenance Manager
ROBERT E. NISBET	Attorney
STANLEY O. PEARCE	Superintendent of Safety and Training
LAWRENCE A. ROSENBERG	District Secretary and Administrative Projects Manager
WARREN E. ROBINSON	Transportation Engineer
LOWELL D. WEIGHT	Treasurer-Controller

Regional Conference in San Francisco, on motion of Vice-President McDonnell.

- Authorized General Manager to execute three-year labor agreement with IBEW Local 1245, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

- Authorized General Manager to file application for operating assistance grant under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 as amended, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

AC Transit  
Latham Square Building  
Oakland, California 94612

MARVIN W. HANCOCK A-5  
2880 CHATTLETON LANE,  
APT. 17  
SAN PABLO, CA 94806

BULK RATE  
U. S. Postage

**PAID**

Oakland, Calif.  
Permit #2105

Return Requested