Berk Will Represent Richmond Area On Transit Board; Arnold Defeated

William E. Berk, Richmond businessman and civic leader, was elected to the transit district board of directors this month as ward representative of Western Contra Costa County.

Voters also returned to office Robert K. Barber of Kensington and William H. Coburn, Jr. of Berkeley by sizeable majorities.

Berk, who was unopposed in his bid for election, will represent Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo and adjacent unincorporated area including El Sobrante.

His election as director of Ward II was assured when the incumbent, J. Howard Arnold of Albany, switched at the last moment and sought election as director-at-large. Arnold, however, was defeated by Barber, the incumbent director-at-large who currently is president of the board of directors.

Coburn, a Berkeley attorney, represents Berkeley, Emeryville and West Oakland on the board of directors.

Complete unofficial returns from the Nov. 8 election were as follows:

At Large
Robert K. Barber . . . . 122,155
Leo Baum . . . . 80,187
George H. Adams . . . . 61,144
J. Howard Arnold . . . . 37,316

Ward I
William H. Coburn, Jr. . . . . 36,230
Leo W. Brown . . . . 12,694
Jack Gibbons . . . . 7,997
The East Bay got its first look this month at the first steps toward new and improved service promised by AC Transit as modernized and repainted buses started moving into service.

Most of the diesel equipment formerly belonging to Key System Transit Lines is undergoing the transformation, which includes a new paint job of the inside and change-over to the colors of the district on the outside.

The color scheme, which sends the long familiar yellow and green of Key System into oblivion, will closely match the new streamlined "Transit Liners" which will start arriving in December.

In the interior, ceilings are being painted white and either sunshine yellow or light green, while the rest of the bus is finished in shades of green or beige.
Worthington Names Managers

Departmental appointments, covering principal phases of AC Transit operations, were announced this month by John R. Worthington, general manager.

The schedule includes:

Attorney
Robert E. Nisbet, attorney, will handle all district legal matters, except those dealing with accident claims and related incidents.

Secretary-Administrative Assistant
George M. Taylor, board secretary and administrative assistant. His duties, such as normally discharged by the secretary of a corporate body, include keeping of records, minutes and other detail, assisting the general manager in administration.

Operations and Traffic
Kenneth F. Hensel, operations manager, as head of the department, has full responsibility for all operating functions.

Donald J. Potter will continue present responsibilities as general superintendent of the department, under direction of the operations manager.

E. Sam Davis will continue as traffic engineer in charge of traffic and schedule department, will also assume charge of PBX information services and lost property.

H. D. White, transportation analyst, will conduct special studies and supervisory assignments, as determined by the operations manager.

Public Information
Alan L. Bingham, public information manager, will be in charge of the district's information and public relations program. He also will execute other duties assigned by the general manager.

Engineering and Safety
G. G. Wadsworth, safety engineer and engineering assistant to the general manager, will be responsible for the district's safety program and activities. He also will supervise such engineering programs as may be directed by the general manager.

Treasurer-Controller
John F. Larsen, treasurer-controller, has full responsibility for the treasury and accounting departments.

W. G. Skilling, assistant treasurer, will have immediate supervision of the treasurer's office, under the treasurer-controller.

J. T. Stockman, head of data processing, will be in charge of the IBM installation and other data processing equipment, its functions and personnel, under direction of the treasurer-controller.

Personnel
Harold M. Davis, personnel manager, will have charge of all personnel functions, exclusive of direction and discipline. He will supervise employee recruitment, employee training programs, handling of industrial and employee relations, maintenance of employee personnel records. His duties also include supervision of the district's safety program and other duties, as may be assigned by the general manager.

Martin Reite, employment supervisor, will be in charge of the personnel department, at direction of personnel manager.

Maintenance and Equipment
J. B. Rice, maintenance manager, will have responsibility for all aspects of equipment maintenance.

E. A. Towers, general superintendent of maintenance, will assist in general supervision, with specific responsibility for direction of Division 2.

Purchasing and Stores
Howard D. Beebe, director of purchasing and stores, will be responsible for procurement of materials and supplies, and for storage and distribution.

Model Display in Bank Lobby Gives Passengers Preview of New Equipment

A miniature display of the streamlined "Transit Lasers" soon to be operated by AC Transit is making the rounds of East Bay bank lobbies, giving passengers a preview of what the new buses will look like.

The display includes two scale models of the 250 luxurious buses ordered by the district and slated to start rolling in service in December.

Adding to the authentic look are the tiny figures of passengers, about to climb aboard. The display is set against a painted suburban background.

The models, complete to the AC Transit emblem, are in district colors of white, metallic silver, Tahoe turquoise and persimmon orange.

The display was shown first at the Bank of Commerce and the First Western Bank in Oakland, then was scheduled to move for weekly visits to Richmond, Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward, San Leandro and back to Oakland.
Public Welcomes Neighborhood Transit
Service in Western Contra Costa County

AC Transit found smooth rolling and a warm welcome in Western Contra Costa County this month following inauguration of its first network of new and improved services, according to a report by John R. Worthington, district general manager.

New routes and line extensions, put into operation October 23 and 24, gave some areas their first bus transportation.

NEW TIMETABLES — AC Transit hostess Ann Castle, left, hands timetable and route map of new Western Contra Costa transit service to Mrs. Maude Russell of Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. Miss Castle called on housewives in vicinity of new transit lines to acquaint them with details of expanded service.

For other sections, such as El Sobrante, it meant more frequent and faster service.

Passenger revenues, after a slow beginning, have started to pick up, Worthington said. But it has been the public’s reaction that surprised drivers and company personnel, he said.

“Residents came out on the street the first few days to wave at the buses as they went by. Passengers have gone out of their way to tell drivers how glad they are to see them—and the new service.

“We’ve had letters and calls by the dozens. Everybody seems to feel a personal interest, and appreciation for the service.”

Generally, the new service ties outlying hill residential areas to downtown Richmond and to the El Cerrito shopping center, giving housewives easy access to shopping facilities.

Virtually all public and private schools in the area have been brought within walking distance of public transit, including Contra Costa Junior College. Recreation areas and other points of interest, also have been made accessible to the entire area by public transit.

Service Outlined

New service and extensions include Line 78, now giving Parchester Village its first transit connection with downtown Richmond and San Pablo.

Line 69-A is serving residential areas of Fairmood College Highlands, Hilltop, Movers and Manor Roads and the junior college on a 40 minute schedule.

El Sobrante and De Anza Whitecliff residents received improved service through the similar 40 minute headway of Line 69-B.

East Richmond Heights in the vicinity of Arlington Blvd., as far south as Olive St., is now served by an extension of Line 68.

The Barrett Ave. branch of the 68 line, operating through the El Cerrito hill area east of San Pablo Ave., terminates at the north entrance to Capwell’s in the El Cerrito Plaza.

Service is provided every 30 minutes during daytime hours on both branches of the 68 line.

Hostess Tells Residents About Service

Along with getting new and better service, Western Contra Costa County got a special touch from AC Transit—a hostess who personally acquainted residents with the improvements.

Iona Castlebary, former bus driver, paid calls at nearly 3,000 homes before the new service started.

She presented residents with a time table of the line serving their area, a route map and a letter of greeting from John R. Worthington, district general manager, and a civic official of the community involved.

As a welcoming committee of one, Mrs. Castlebary found residents enthusiastic and friendly and glad to hear about the transit improvements in their area.

The home call was programmed as an extra gesture to help new customers learn about the district’s plans to improve transit comfort and convenience.

Mrs. Castlebary previously worked as a street car operator for Key System Transit Lines between 1944 and 1948, then became a bus operator, working with the crew of other women bus operators until March, 1959.

As hostess, she used the district-chosen name of “Ann Castle”—a name the district plans to use widely in its future promotional programs.
New Hayward Transit Routes Planned

A joint study is underway to determine if a proposed network of transit lines in Hayward is properly located or should be changed to better serve the rapidly expanding area.

The study was agreed upon at a recent meeting of representatives from the City of Hayward, Hayward Chamber of Commerce and AC Transit.

In support of the study, John R. Worthington, district general manager, pointed out that new bus routes would be inaugurated as soon as equipment is available next April or May.

Four neighborhood lines extending from downtown Hayward into the southwest portion of the city and into San Lorenzo Village were recommended a year ago by engineering consultants engaged by the district.

The discussion brought one suggestion from Robert W. Crommelin, Hayward city traffic engineer, that greater use be made of the city's major street system, such as Winton Ave., Harder Rd., and Tennyson Rd.

The possibility of improving connections between local neighborhood lines and the proposed new direct express service between Decoto and Oakland also was considered.

Worthington said a $200,000 equipment storage terminal in Hayward is planned, though the terminal will not be needed until after the new service is in operation.

Lost Property Clerk Gets Everything

From Turtle Heads to Sleeping Bags

By Virginia Dennison

People lose some amazing things on buses—like false teeth, petrified sea turtle heads and a burlesque queen costume.

Mrs. Martha Nielsen, lost property clerk for AC Transit at Emeryville Division headquarters, 45th and San Pablo Aves., is hardly ever surprised any more. But she has learned to be cautious about putting her hand in paper sacks.

Ever since the time she pulled out a shrunken head by its long stringy hair, The head turned out to be manufactured, rather than the real thing, but the effect was the same. Now she peeks first.

Walking Almanac

After serving four years in lost and found for Key System Transit Lines, Mrs. Nielsen is like an almanac. She can tell the past weather at a glance, by the number of umbrellas left on buses on certain days.

But it's the odd things she remembers best, like the large turtle head, reclaimed by Dispatcher Ed Blake when he was a bus driver. He took it home for the kids to play with, but plans to check one of these days to see if the petrified monster is a museum piece.

Mrs. Nielsen's "collection" includes a sleeping bag and Coleman stove, lost separately (she's waiting for the tent), a trombone, and a fancy pair of topaz cuff links, big as headlights.

She's also had custody of an anchor chain, a roll of barbed wire and a pair of glasses with a built-in hearing aid.

If the items are unclaimed after 30 days (longer if they are valuable) and Mrs. Nielsen cannot locate the owner, the bus operator can put in a claim.

Unusual Request

The interest of drivers sometimes puzzles Mrs. Nielsen as much as how people can lose the things they do. She still wonders, for example, why a driver asked for—and eventually received—the costume, complete with upper rosettes, lost on a bus by an unknown burlesque queen.

Though she has never found out the answer, Mrs. Nielsen is little concerned—just as long as the incoming lost property doesn't get too far ahead of the outgoing reclaimed property.
Two-Year Transit Labor Contract Signed

A new contract assuring labor peace in the East Bay public transit industry for at least two years has been signed by representatives of the transit district and the Carmen's Union.

The contract allows bus drivers a 2% cent hourly wage increase over the next 24 months and provides for liberalized vacations, increased health and welfare contributions and other benefits.

Agreement Terms

Terms of the agreement gave bus drivers a 2% cent hourly wage increase over the next 24 months and provides for liberalized vacations, increased health and welfare contributions and other benefits.

John R. Worthington, district general manager, said he hoped the settlement would help bring to an end the long history of labor unrest among East Bay transit workers.
At an adjourned regular meeting October 27, 1960, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized General Manager to execute labor contract with Division 192, Carmen's Union, on motion of Director Copeland.
- Approved wage rates for employees represented by Local 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, pending negotiation of new contract, on motion of Director McDonnell.
- Established fares for special transbay express line during current racing season at Golden Gate Fields, on motion of Director McDonnell.
- Directed the attorney to prepare a suitable resolution as to the problem of smoking on buses, on motion of Director Copeland.
- Approved agreement with Bank of America for registration agent services in connection with sale of district bonds, on motion of Director McDonnell.

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At the regular meeting November 2, 1960, the Board of Directors:

- Referred engineering report dealing with purchase of Beninger Transportation Company to Committee on Finance by direction of President Barber.
- Referred proposed study on experimental equipment to Committee on Program Planning, on motion of Director Copeland.

**New Equipment Boosts Transit Riding in New York**

New equipment, similar to the 250 “Transit Liners” ordered by AC Transit, was attributed as the main factor in a patronage increase recorded by the New York Transit Authority during the last fiscal year.

New and more comfortable buses accounted “in a large part” for a surface transportation boost of 3.5 per cent or 14,414,000 more riders.

Cited as a dramatic example was one section of Brooklyn, where eight lines, equipped with the latest type buses, gained eight per cent.