District to Buy More ‘Transit Liners’ To Meet Unexpected Passenger Gains

Plans to buy another 20 to 25 streamlined, air conditioned buses at a cost of more than $750,000 were disclosed this month by AC Transit.

The purchase will add additional 45-passenger motor coaches to the 250 new "Transit Liners" purchased earlier in the year, increasing the district's total bus fleet to 654.

The board of directors voted to call for bids on the new equipment after the acquisition was recommended by the board's project development committee and General Manager John R. Worthington as necessary to meet passenger increases and service requirements.

Passenger revenue gains on transbay service are substantially greater than hoped for and the district already is operating more equipment on transbay and local lines than engineers had anticipated.

Service Quality

"The level of service, including seat availability and quality of equipment must continue if we are to retain new riders and maintain the patronage of existing customers," Worthington said.

Air conditioning, especially, has proven a valuable asset during the summer months and is credited with a major role in summer passenger traffic boosts.

Reaction to the roomy, 45 passenger coaches is particularly noteworthy.

There is a definite need for additional coaches of the suggested 400 series to augment express service during peak periods of operation, it was pointed out.

Transbay Lines

The same series coach, with its 102-inch width, has proven so successful on the transbay Line A service that consideration will be given to this type of coach on the transbay Lines F and B service and other short transbay routes.

Worthington said it is reasonable to expect that as mileage increases on the present fleet of 400 series buses, more of this type also will be needed to replace coaches taken out of service for repairs.

Approximately $570,000 is now available from the bus renewal fund and the sum will reach the necessary $750,000 by the time coaches are delivered.

Meanwhile, Worthington reported, rehabilitation of older diesel equipment is 72 per cent completed, with 198 buses out of 276 repainted and refurbished. Thirteen gasoline buses out of a designated 20 have been dieselized for hill runs, and 24 out of 30 buses in another series of gasoline coaches have been repainted pending their ultimate replacement.
Yugoslavs Study District Operations

Three Yugoslavian transportation officials inspected AC Transit's facilities during the month on a special tour arranged by the State Department, gathering information to help solve some of the transit problems behind the Iron Curtain.

The men were particularly interested in the district's training and safety program, in how equipment was assigned—one of their particular problems—and in methods of overhaul and maintenance.

The visitors expressed surprise at the efficient, "high production" rate of district mechanics and the low level of man hours spent at maintenance.

They were also interested in how operators and supervisors are selected and in methods of safety awards.

In Yugoslavia, they disclosed, drivers are responsible for bus damage costing up to 5000 dinar (about $8, which is almost a week's pay). An insurance policy pays for damages over the 5000 dinar figure, but operators have to pay the premium.

The visitors included Engelbert Mklavcic, chief of the Project Bureau, Electrical Tramways of Zagreb; Aleksander Avramovic, technical director of the Enterprise for Passenger Transport in Nis; and Gojslav Gojkovic, technical director of the street car system in Sarajevo.

Antone Evovich, mechanic at the Emeryville division, helped to arrange the tour. Visitor Alek Evovich, Emeryville division mechanic who acted as interpreter. Visitor Aleksander Avramovic stands at far right.

Colorful Route Maps Show Riders How To 'See the East Bay' by District Bus

New multi-colored route maps have been prepared to help the public "see the East Bay" by its new bus system.

The "Guide for Going Places on AC Transit" shows the routes followed by the City Express lines, the East Bay local lines and the transbay lines to San Francisco.

Included are the new network of services in Hayward and Montclair, together with other line extensions throughout the area. The map also shows operations in El Sobrante, Parchester Village and East Richmond Heights.

To quickly identify the various services, the City Express lines are marked in red numbers; local lines, in black and white, and transbay, in blue.

Informal drawings mark some of the places of interest, with more complete information detailed on the reverse side of the folder in a section entitled "What to See and How to Get There by AC Transit."

Photographs of some of the area's interesting spots illustrate the section, which ranges from Alameda beaches to Woodminster amphitheater.

Veteran Bus Driver Retires from District

Clarence H. Robelohannes, 65, retired from AC Transit Oct. 1, after a long record as a transit operator.

Robelohannes went to work more than 27 years ago as a crossing watchman, but soon progressed to street car operator, then to trainman and, in 1958, to motor coach operator. He makes his home at 6135 Hillmont Dr., Oakland.

A detailed map of bus service in downtown Oakland also is included.

The new maps are available at the general offices, 1106 Broadway, Oakland and at the Transbay Transit Terminal in San Francisco. They also may be obtained by phoning the Transit Information Bureau at OLYmpic 3-3535.

A new charter brochure also has been prepared, to show groups the fun they can have in leaving driving worries home, through chartering a bus.

The two-color brochure contains pictures taken throughout the State, illustrating the variety of places to go by charter.
RECORD HOLDERS—Operators with longest safe driving record receive safety awards from General Manager John R. Worthington, left. The drivers, each with 14 years of safe travel, are, left to right, W. C. Rissman, E. J. McCann and W. D. Norman.

Gold Pins Awarded for Safe Driving

Bus drivers throughout the district are wearing new gold pins, awarded for safe driving.

Some 450 operators were presented with the pins during the month, to inaugurate a new safety award program.

Three bus operators with the longest safe driving record of 14 years received their pins from General Manager John R. Worthington at a ceremony in the executive offices.

The three drivers are W. C. Rissman, 715 Talbot Ave., Albany; W. D. Norman, 3843 Coolidge Ave., Oakland, both of the Emeryville division and E. J. McCann, 15099 Edgemoor St., San Leandro, of the East Oakland division. They have tallied up a combined achievement of 1,375,000 miles of safe driving—the equivalent of 55 times around the world.

Other drivers were given their pins in presentation ceremonies at each division.

Assistant General Manager Kenneth F. Hensel spoke on the importance of the safety program and told of district progress to date in this field. General Superintendent Donald J. Potter made the presentation of the pins and wallet sized cards signifying that the operator was selected for his safe driving and high degree of skill and effort.

Potter, in turn, was presented with an award of his own during the ceremonies at the Richmond division as the result of his humorous grumbling about not receiving a safety award pin of his own. Potter's "award" was a large-sized, actual safety pin, decorated with an AC Transit emblem, and a card which credited him with "zero" years of safe operation.

Drivers unable to attend the meetings later received their pins from district superintendents. Similar awards will be made every three to four months.
Workers Assigned to District Divisions

The district welcomed a new group of employees during the month of October, with most of them operators assigned to the Emeryville and Richmond divisions.

The new workers include:

**Emeryville Division**

- Maintenance: Freddy R. Self, 4330 Essex St., Emeryville; Lawrence E. Ellis, 2115 14th Ave., Oakland.
- PBX and Information: Agnes A. Connelly, 4314-A Salem St., Emeryville.

**Richmond Division**


**East Oakland Division**


**General Offices**

- Accounting: JoAnne Haller, 765 59th St., Oakland.

**Surprise Party Given**

For Mary Helen Smith

A surprise party was held at the Emeryville Division in honor of Mrs. Mary Helen Smith, night operator in Transit Information for the past eight years, before she left to “just being home” at 5616 El Dorado St., El Cerrito.

The farewell, set up in the office of Traffic Engineer E. Sam Davis, included presentation of a gift and a corsage, pinned on by Sam. Cake and coffee also were served, from a specially decorated table.

**IN MEMORIAM**

An automobile accident while on a hunting trip took the life this month of Emil C. Jorgensen, assistant superintendent at the East Oakland division.

Mr. Jorgensen, 50, went to work for Key System in 1934 and had been a motor coach operator, instructor, dispatcher and supervisor.

Survivors include his father, J. C. Jorgensen, who is an AC Transit supervisor; his widow, Charlotte; a son, John, and two grandchildren. The family home is at 1841 Keeler Ave., San Lorenzo.

D. H. Runion, bus operator at the Richmond division, died recently.

Mr. Runion, 57, joined the Key System in 1946. He resided at 3808 12th St., San Pablo, and is survived by his widow, Mary, and four children.

Death has also come to two former employees, Bruce W. Campbell, 76, and William J. T. Smith, 82.

Mr. Campbell was research engineer in the general offices at the time of his retirement in 1948. He lived in Lafayette. Mr. Smith, employed in the maintenance department, worked from 1925 until 1946. He lived at 16145 Via Descanso, San Lorenzo, with his son, Eric, maintenance foreman at Richmond division.

**Everyday Drama Lightens Work Day**

Some of the “drama of everyday life” helped to make November a particularly rewarding month for AC Transit—and a grateful one for several riders.

Mrs. Vada E. Garrison of 4609 Bond St., Oakland, in a letter to the lost and found department, summarized her experiences this way:

“Never in my travel experience have I received such prompt and courteous service for an emergency as recently by AC Transit.

“In maneuvering my crippled sister and baggage en route to the Greyhound station, I inadvertently left her suitcase on the bus at our transfer point. As a result of my frantic phone call, the suitcase beat us to the station.

“During the entire procedure, each person showed remarkable courtesy.

“We are proud of our AC Transit.”

Joyce Wentzer, a secretary in the executive offices, solved the problems of another worried passenger, an elderly Filipino planning to return to his homeland.

He left a briefcase containing passports, citizenship papers, army papers and other necessary documents on a bus. She checked schedules, hurried with him to 14th St. and Broadway and caught the bus on the return trip. The driver had meanwhile found the brief case; it was returned and the rider sent on his way, all in 20 minutes.

Operator Roy Williams on Line F also came in for plaudits from an East Whittier City School District official, for helping to recover a valuable camera just 90 minutes after it was left on a coach.
ART IN BUILDING—Palace of Fine Arts, one of masterpieces of Bernard Maybeck, as it looked in 1915, before time crumbled the edges. A monument to romanticism and the ability of its designer, funds have been earmarked for its reconstruction.

Transit Trails

Architectural Tour Offers Discoveries

By Virginia Dennison

No matter how well you think you know the East Bay area, you can make a new and exciting "tour of discovery" by looking at it architecturally.

To give it the right flair and verve, you might start with the achievements of Bernard Maybeck, who in his span—1862 to 1957—became one of the most interesting and influential architects in the West.

He was a free-thinking, joyous and independent builder who, among other things, gave San Francisco the Palace of Fine Arts and Berkeley, the First Church of Christ Scientist. And the church, timeless and beautiful, is the place to start a Maybeck tour.

To perhaps better understand and appreciate Maybeck's skill, it might be fun to first pick up a paper-back guide, "Buildings of the Bay Area," which may be obtained at book stores for $1.95. But even the casual, uninformed viewer can enjoy Maybeck's skill with structure and decoration.

Further down the street, at 2401 Dwight Way, is the Town and Gown Club, typical of Maybeck's brown-shingled styling and his use of wood.

At 2700 Belrose Ave. (corner of Derby), a pleasant walk southeast from the Town and Gown Club is the former Randolph School, which shows what you can do with three 60-degree roofs turned at angles to each other, with the same pitch repeated in gate structure. Now a private home, the building represented a new concept in floor planning, with each classroom opening on three sides to the garden.

Among other Maybeck homes, the guide book lists 7133 Chabot Rd., at Roble Rd.; 2515 Etna St. (hidden by trees); 1515 La Lorna Ave.; 1722 Le Roy Ave., and the peak-roofed, shingle house at the head of Ridge road, built in 1895.

But the most interesting Maybecks, if you can mountain climb a bit, are in the architect's own home territory, on Buena Vista Way, above La Loma.

At 2704 or 2733 Buena Vista, with walls made of burlap bags dipped in "bubble" concrete and hung on wire mesh. Other Maybecks are at 2704 and 2733 Buena Vista.

To look at the architect's best known work, take any of the transbay lines to San Francisco; walk from the terminal to Mission St., take any bus up Mission to Third St. to get the 30 bus heading north. It will deliver you to the Palace of Fine Arts.

Way up Buena Vista—enjoy the view on the way—is one of Maybeck's own homes, with walls made of burlap bags dipped in "bubble" concrete and hung on wire mesh. Other Maybecks are at 2704 and 2733 Buena Vista.

Look at it as Maybeck did, a building of vanquished grandeur, as beautiful reflected in the water as against the sky. A structure of haunting beauty, it makes a fitting climax to a Maybeck tour, survivor of not only the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition, but of one man's artistry.
Pete’s Grounded

Chipmunk Loses Free Ride Advantages

A likeable commuter has been reluctantly retired from freeloadling out of the Richmond division. Although a favorite with other passengers, "Pete," a chipmunk, has been grounded.

For a year, Pete rode around in the breast pocket of operator Donald D. Dye of 1016 17th St., Richmond, only poking out his twitchy nose on request.

So well behaved that officials didn’t know of his existence, Pete piled up happy mileage until a fellow chipmunk—probably a lady—hit the panic button.

The visitor accidentally got away from Dye in the division offices, setting off a chase involving eight to 10 bus drivers. The chipmunk was captured but it was officially pointed out that a similar incident on a bus might cause alarm among some of the passengers and create an accident.

"The boss was right," Dye agreed. "Pete never scared anyone, but if he did, I’d be in hot water."

Pete is now confined to quarters, except when the driver goes visiting. Then Pete takes his pocket seat and goes traveling.

Crusade Donations Top Old Record

A final total of $12,892 in cash and pledges was contributed by AC Transit workers to the United Crusade, showing a response from 89 per cent of the employees.

The contribution was a 24 per cent increase over the amount raised last year, according to a letter of congratulations sent to district campaigners from John F. Larson, district treasurer-controller and group chairman of the fund-raising campaign this year for AC Transit employees.

Participating in the joint campaign by district management and labor were 1,199 out of 1,344 employees. Total 100 per cent participation was chalked up by the purchasing and stores department, the maintenance at the East Oakland division, the Transbay Transit Terminal in San Francisco, the office of the Carmen’s Union, and maintenance at the Richmond division.

Young Riders Find Driver is Best Pal

If a popularity contest was conducted in the Shepherd Canyon area of Oakland, the winner undoubtedly would be W. H. "Bill" Dawson, one of AC Transit’s happiest drivers.

It’s Bill who drives the special school bus from the wooded canyon area to Montclair School and it would be hard to decide who enjoys the runs the most, Bill or the kids.

With most of his charges in the kindergarten bracket, Bill not only gets them to school and home again, but, when the occasion demands it, tries to solve their tearful problems.

If a sweater is left at school, he goes back to collect it. If a young rider has lost his 10 cent fare—all parents know this happens occasionally—Bill reaches into his own pocket and loans them a dime to drop into the fare box.

He knows each youngster by first name and they know his. He sees that they get home with all their belongings—not an easy job on a rainy day—and in turn, the children keep Bill supplied with objects of their affection.

He shared their Hallowe’en treats—for days—and has been presented with innumerable examples of kindergarten art, plus one “rock collection.” He’s also transported a selection of things for sharing, including a group of spiders and a family of white mice: mama, papa and six little ones.

"Always crazy about kids," Bill has three of his own at home, 1050 63rd St., Oakland. They are Ralph Eddie, 12; Eric, 7, and the apple of all their eyes, Kathleen, 3.

Parents were wondering at the start of the special service about sending the youngest of the children off by bus, Bill said, but they were assured good care would be taken of the tots.

How well he’s succeeded has been apparent from the number of phone calls and letters sent to the district by grateful parents, who not only compliment Dawson for his thoughtfulness, warmth and friendliness, but for his magical ability to make them behave.

Their only complaint: the kids like to ride with Bill so much, there are tears and complaints when they can’t ride the bus and have to board the family car!
At the regular monthly meeting November 8, 1961, the Board of Directors:

- Denied claim of Benninger Transportation Company in regard to new AC Transit service in El Sobrante, on motion of Director Coburn.
- Authorized request for bids on purchase of 20 to 25 new buses, on motion of Director Coburn.
- Authorized request for bids on furnishing and installing new heating facilities at East Oakland division, on motion of Director McDonnell.
- Approved form of monthly financial statements, on motion of Director McDonnell.
- Adopted a resolution commending and expressing grateful appreciation to district personnel for outstanding performance in planning, supervising and executing the mass "Family Rosary Charter" on Oct. 7, and which recognized their services as being of the highest caliber, on motion of Director Coburn.

**New Division Heating System to be Installed**

Installation of a new heating system at the East Oakland division was given the go ahead by the board of directors this month.

The board authorized the general manager to secure bids on heating units which will replace old unvented gas heater radiators in use throughout the division headquarters building. The new heating system also will provide heat for the new quarters of the safety and training department.

All activities of the safety and training department have been moved to the East Oakland division where trainees will now receive instruction and driver training.