Bus stop signs, Timetables Coordinated for BART opening
Miss Kimi Fujii of Hayward, long active in community betterment projects, has become the first woman member of the AC Transit Board of Directors.

Miss Fujii was unanimously appointed by other members of the board to fill out the unexpired term of the late E. Guy Warren. She was sworn into office by Superior Judge George W. Phillips, a long-time friend, and took her seat at the April 12 meeting. Her board term will run through December, 1974.

A Hayward-born Japanese-American, Miss Fujii has been deeply involved in matters concerning the unemployed, low income groups and Spanish-speaking people since being graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1947.

The new director was born in the family home at the flower nursery established by her father, the late Rutaro Fujii, at 24949 Soto Rd., Hayward. She is associated with the family wholesale firm of Fujii Co., Inc. and the retail outlet, Fujii’s Florist.

A graduate of Hayward Union High School, Miss Fujii was a member of the board of the California Spring Garden and Home Show for 11 years and has been serving on the City of Hayward Human Relations Commission.

She also is a member of the steering committee of Friends of California State College at Hayward; a member of the Citizen’s Advisory Board, St. Rose Hospital; Hayward Branch of the American Association of University Women; Eden Township Chapter, Japanese-American Citizens’ League; Alameda County Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Alameda County Branch, San Francisco Ballet Guild.

First Woman Transit Director—Miss Kimi Fujii of Hayward takes her oath of office as a member of the AC Transit Board of Directors from a long-time friend, Superior Judge George W. Phillips.

BART agrees to transfer arrangement

A transfer arrangement, whereby the return trip on an AC Transit feeder bus would be free, was approved this month by the BART Board of Directors.

Under the experimental plan, already approved by the AC Transit board, a commuter would pay the regular 25-cent fare when he boards the bus in the East Bay in the morning.

Before leaving the station on his return trip in the evening, he would get a transfer entitling him to a free bus ride. BART will share the cost, paying 12 1/2 cents for each transfer which AC Transit turns in.
Blind girl gets around by bus

She describes herself as “a traveler with a white cane,” and additionally says, “I guess I am not very typical.”

Both statements are accurate appraisals of Joan Easterbrooks, a blind 29-year-old counselor for the State Department of Rehabilitation in Oakland.

Five days a week the trim brunette travels from her Berkeley apartment to downtown Oakland via AC Transit buses to work in “assisting disabled persons to get into appropriate training programs and job situations.”

Riding the bus to get to work and back home again is only one of the uses Joan finds for AC Transit facilities. “I ride buses in my work when I have to go to a school or some other place. And I use it for recreational purposes like going to a movie or shopping.”

One of the AC Transit services which Joan uses frequently is the Information Center, which she calls to find out about routes and schedules. “It’s been very helpful to me,” she says.

Joan’s blindness is the result of being given too much oxygen as a premature baby when she was placed in an incubator. Her present 128 pounds bears little resemblance to the fragile two pounds, nine ounces she weighed at birth. She terms the over-oxygenation as a baby “one of those accident situations.”

Her interests include swimming, music—she plays the piano and guitar—plays and movies, and travel.

“When you travel you have to be more organized than a sighted person,” she says of her various treks locally and nationally. “You can’t go at random like others. You have to make quite a few preparations.”

“Once she is in a city,” she says with a smile, “I ride on the bike with someone else.”

District receives two Top national awards

Top awards—one for management achievement and the other for maintenance efficiency—have been presented to AC Transit by Fleet Owner magazine, which represents the transit industry.

Alan L. Bingham, general manager, was one of 13 transit executives honored by the magazine, which paid tribute to his imaginative leadership.

Fleet Owner termed Bingham “a man thoroughly familiar with somewhat exotic concepts” of transit and said under his guidance, the property was trying out a modern steam bus and a computer program which may aid future management decisions concerning the performance of each individual bus and how best it can be assigned.

The property’s maintenance department received its 10th award for efficiency, adding another plaque to those already collected.

Steps taken to expand transit

The first affirmative step to create a proposed expanded public transit system in central Contra Costa County has been taken by the Contra Costa Mayors’ Conference.

At a meeting this month, the Conference adopted, in principle, an engineering plan which could lead to operation of public transit in the area, in addition to BART trunk line service.

The Conference approved appointment of a Public Transportation Standing Committee with responsibility to work toward implementation of local public transit service.

The program includes these points:
- Enact a resolution that BART be responsible for financing interim bus operation from the Concord BART station to Martinez, Pittsburg and Antioch.
- Take steps to establish a legal entity to provide local public transportation service.
- Coordinate with AC Transit and BART for inclusion of local public transportation service budget requirements in claims to Metropolitan Transportation Commission for gasoline tax funds.
- Recommend that cities, which would receive new transit services, and the County, consider earmarking the new tax money to support such public transit operations.

Transit services proposed for the area in an engineering study include a new trunk-line bus route from Concord to the Martinez-Pittsburg-Antioch area; an AC Transit extension to Pinole; a dial-a-ride operation in the central county and eventually, a fleet of publicly owned, small electric cars for short trips within the central Contra Costa County area.

The awards were accepted by A. R. “Tony” Lucchesi, maintenance manager, at the national Fleet Owner conference in Chicago.

Savings bond purchase Drive is launched

A drive to encourage even more AC Transit employees to buy U.S. Savings Bonds is underway this month, under the leadership of Treasurer-Controller Lowell D. Weight.

According to Weight, more than one fourth of all District employees buy bonds each pay day. AC Transit workers who do buy bonds save an average of $667 each year by payroll withholdings.

Weight pointed out U.S. Savings Bonds now pay 5½ percent interest if held to maturity of five years and 10 months, and are exempt from state income taxes. Minimal federal taxes become due only when the bonds eventually are cashed.
State champion
Roller skating driver
May go to Olympics

AC Transit at the 1972 Olympics? It could happen, if driver H. R. "Rocky" Shore of Seminary Division makes it through the grueling rounds of roller skating competition starting in Bakersfield in July and ending in Lincoln, Nebraska, in August.

Shore, eleven times Northern California Senior Men's roller skating champion, will make his first bid for a place on an American Olympic team.

The 20th Olympiad, to be held in Munich, Germany, from Aug. 26 through Sept. 10, will be the first time the games have roller skating competition.

Shore, 36, has been skating since he was five and has skated competitively for 27 years. He won his first major championship in skating competition.

Shore went on to the World Championship in Oslo, Norway and, once again, finished second.

In 1963 he entered the nationals, finishing in second place. Later that same year, Shore went on to the World Championship in Oslo, Norway and, once again, finished second.

Shore, an AC Transit driver four years, lives at 2772 Sydney Way, Castro Valley, with his wife and four children. Two of the children, ten-year-old twin boys, Jerry and Jeff, will be skating with their father this summer—one of the first times a father/son combination has been entered in skating competition.

When Shore isn't driving or skating, he coaches.

Last year, he helped form the first all-black roller skating team as its coach. The young team has yet to win but, Shore says, they've made several good showings against older teams.

"I have great hopes for them," he declares.

Shore also was offered the job of coaching the West Coast Olympic training team, but had to turn down the offer when the training site was switched from the Bay Area to Southern California.

When that occurred, he decided to go after a team spot himself and may yet carry AC Transit's colors to Munich.

Hipsley, ten others go into retirement

When Cecil Hipsley retired last month as chief clerk at Seminary Division, he brought to an end a family relationship with public transit which stretched back 60 years.

Hipsley's late father, Miron, worked as a motorman for a predecessor company from 1912 to 1918.

Hipsley started as a driver with Key System on Feb. 11, 1941. He was promoted to dispatcher less than two years later and became chief clerk on Sept. 1, 1947, the job he held until his retirement.

Retirement plans for Hipsley and his wife of nearly 39 years, Evelyn, include moving to Santa Cruz and then a considerable amount of travel.

Ten other AC Transit employees also retired recently.

Joseph F. Armijo, 62, a mechanic, retired March 1 after 26 years service. He lives at 16968 Meckland Ave., San Lorenzo.

Driver Leonard L. Culton, 59, retired Feb. 1 after 31 years of driving. He had been employed since Mar. 28, 1941. Culton lives at 6165 Oakdale Ave., Oakland.

Harry Grimes, who has been on sick leave since May, 1971, was retired Apr. 1. Grimes, 68, dates his service as a driver from Sept. 23, 1928. He now lives in Sebastopol.

Driver Howard Keltner, with 29 years of service, retired Feb. 1. Keltner, 60, lives at 1246 Marin Ave., San Pablo.

Elmer Lueckfeld, who worked briefly during 1945-46 and came back permanently on Nov. 8, 1951, retired Apr. 1 at age 57 after 20 years as a driver.

Lueckfeld's wife, Viscian, an information center telephone operator since Jan. 25, 1957, chose to resign so the two of them could enjoy his retirement.

They plan to move to Kansas where they will "travel, garden, fish, golf and just enjoy life," according to Elmer.

Driver Robert J. MacDonald, 62, who has been on sick leave for two years, was retired Mar. 1 with 31 years of service. He lives at 3606 - 39th Ave., Oakland.

Ferdinand Nagy, a driver since Sept. 26, 1945, retired Feb. 1 at the age of 63. He lives at 1108 Bodmin Ave., San Leandro.


Bus driver Carl F. Peterson, 60, dates his service from Apr. 23, 1946. Peterson, who lives at 5 Wandel Dr., Moraga, retires officially on May 1.

Carl D. Sconer, a driver since June 2, 1941, retired Apr. 1 at the age of 63. He lives at 2337 - 92nd Ave., Oakland.

EATS IT UP—Cecil Hipley was given two retirement cakes at his retirement party. His wife, Evelyn, wanted to make certain he sampled at least one of them.
AC Transit welcomed these new workers in January, February and March.
Operators aid in fighting crime

Oakland police continue to credit AC Transit operators with helping to hold down crime by reporting incidents or suspicious circumstances via on-board radios.

Among drivers who have been cited recently by police for using their radios to report incidents were David K. Elsasser and Willie N. Edmondson.

Elsasser saw a man beating and kicking a woman in a downtown Oakland park. He radioed Central Dispatch who notified police.

Edmondson observed a broken glass door at a business. He reported the damage, an act which alerted police to protect the store until the door could be repaired.

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT—A disagreement over a transfer led to a date between driver Warren Miller and Susan Caron. One date led to another until, last July, Miller proposed marriage. Before their wedding last month, Susan was taken on a tour of AC Transit's Seminary Division. It seemed the most natural thing in the world that she should "take over the driver's seat."

Driver, three pensioners die

Bus driver Merrill A. Richardson of 1734-5th Ave., Oakland, died suddenly on March 12.

Richardson, 60, who worked at Emeryville Division, had been employed since June 3, 1946.

Pensioner William H. Hollingsworth, 91, died March 16. He started his transit career May 24, 1911, and retired as a towerman in the Oakland yard on Oct. 18, 1955.

Hollingsworth lived at 1171 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, and is survived by his widow, Emma.

Word has been received that Dalmazzo Viale of Lafayette, who retired Apr. 1, 1946, died Oct. 6, 1971, at the age of 82.

He was employed as an electrician from Feb. 2, 1921, until his retirement.

John J. Brodniak, who retired Jan. 1, 1968, after 22 years employment as a mechanic, died Apr. 3 at the age of 77.

He worked from Sept. 6, 1945.

Brodniak, who lived at 3544 Boston Ave., Oakland, is survived by his widow, Paula; a daughter, Mrs. Mabelle Gardner of Colorado Springs; and a son, the Rev. Anthony Brodniak, now in Japan.

February figures show increase

Gains were registered in all categories during February, compared to the same month a year ago.

Total passenger revenue for February was $1,205,574, up $14,342 or 1.20 percent above the $1,191,232 collected during February, 1971. East Bay revenue was $638,981, up $4,360 from the $634,621 dropped into fare boxes a year ago—an increase of .69 percent. Transbay revenue of $567,493 was up $9,982 or 1.79 percent above the $557,511 collected one year ago.

Commute book sales totaled $266,916, up $14,799 from sales of $252,114 during the same month last year—a gain of 5.87 percent.

AC Transit buses carried 4,140,759 passengers during February, up 77,199 or 1.90 percent above the 4,063,560 carried during the month of February, 1971. East Bay buses carried 2,971,638 riders, up 52,328 or 1.79 percent above the 2,919,310 who rode during the same month a year earlier. On transbay lines, patronage for the month totaled 1,169,121, up 24,871 or 2.17 percent above the February, 1971, figure of 1,144,250.

Nationally, the transit industry indicated a decrease in revenue passengers of 3.51 percent.

Operating costs during February were $1,917,818, up $259,790 or 15.67 percent above year-ago expenses of $1,658,028. The system operated 2,020,483 miles of service, an increase of 97,648 miles or 5.08 percent above the February, 1971, mileage of 1,922,835.

Total income of $2,020,070 left a deficit of $102,869 in meeting full bond debt requirements and operating costs.
Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting Mar. 22, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized extension of steam bus contract with State of California to Sept. 30, 1972, for further testing and experimentation, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

- Awarded contract for furnishing fare boxes to Keene Corp., and authorized General Manager to execute option for purchase of additional fare boxes at same unit price, on motion of Director McDonnell.

- Adopted proposals on coordination of AC Transit and BART, including new bus stop signs, new bus headsigns and service realignments, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

- Appointed Miss Kimi Fujii to the Board of Directors, filling the remainder of the term of the late Director E. Guy Warren, on motion of Director Copeland. (See story, Pg. 3)

At a regular meeting Apr. 12 the Board of Directors:

- Referred bids for two-way mobile radios to management for study and recommendations, on motion of Director McDonnell.

- Authorized board members to attend steam bus demonstration in Sacramento, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

- Authorized board members and management to attend American Transit Association Regional Conference, on motion of Director Copeland.

Credit union election

The AC Transit employees' credit union began its eighth year of operation recently with the election of 1972 officers. Re-elected for three-year terms were George Adams as treasurer and William Schmidt as member. Other board members, elected previously to three-year terms, are: Milton Hadden, president; Lonnie Ahner, vice-president, and Manuel Garcez, secretary.

Seminary division

Drivers near record

Seminary Division drivers are closing on the all-time safe-driving record established by Richmond Division drivers during 1970-71.

Seminary operators averaged 13,387 safe-driving miles per accident during March, thereby making it nine months in a row they have topped the 13,250 mile goal.