Contract bus service to BART begins
Residents in Alameda and Contra Costa counties who live in areas away from BART stations are now being provided special AC Transit express bus connector service under a contract agreement between BART and AC Transit. Service began Dec. 2.

Five special bus routes connect as follows:
- Line D - from Dublin, San Ramon Valley, Alamo and Danville to BART/Walnut Creek.
- Line M - from Martinez and Pleasant Hill to BART/Concord.
- Line P - from Brentwood, Oakley, Antioch and Pittsburg to BART/Concord.
- Line Q - From El Sobrante and Pinole to BART/EI Cerrito Del Norte.
- Line U - from Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon to BART/Bay Fair and BART/Hayward.

Two veterans join Pensioner ranks

Two long-time AC Transit drivers are joining the ranks of pensioners.


Between the two men, they accumulated more than 62 years of service in public transportation as drivers. Vestal, 62, first came to work Nov. 19, 1945. He has been a driver for 29 years. Wilms, who has been a driver for 33 years after coming to work Nov. 13, 1941, is 60 years old.

Buses run approximately every 30 minutes during peak commute hours and hourly during midday, with the exception of Line Q-Pinole, which is limited to commute hours only and no midday service. Also, the extension of Line P from Antioch to Oakley and Brentwood makes four trips daily, two morning runs, one midday and one evening.

Fares are on a two-zone basis, 25 cents for the first zone of approximately eight miles and an additional 25 cents for longer trips, for a maximum one-way cost of 50 cents.

Fares for senior citizens 65 years of age and over and for youths 12 and under are 10 cents per zone, or a maximum of 20 cents one-way. Exact fare is required as bus drivers do not make change. AC Transit books or tokens may also be used.

Regular AC Transit transfers from other bus lines or from BART stations are not accepted. However, BART express bus passengers can transfer between Line D and Line U in either direction. The AC Transit BART express buses are marked by a blue flag above the driver’s window which says “EXPRESS”.

The connector service involves 30 AC Transit buses.

More than 7,000 passengers were carried during the first week of operation.
Newark bus system launched Dec. 16

The city of Newark started bus service for the first time Dec. 16 as AC Transit inaugurated a one line system within the city and terminating at BART/Fremont.

A commute hour extension also takes riders to BART/Union City.

The bus line, designated Line 29A, operates via Jarvis Ave./Decoto Rd. to BART/Union City.

Hours of operation are approximately 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays, with 30 minutes between buses, and from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, with hourly service. No service is operated on Sundays or holidays.

Fares, set by the Newark City Council, are 25 cents for all riders but passengers may transfer free to bus lines in Fremont, which began its new system last month.

Passengers returning by BART to Fremont or Union City may ride free on buses to Newark by obtaining bus transfers from transfer machines located within the two BART stations.

Two divisions achieve Safe driving distinction

Drivers in two operating divisions exceeded their monthly safe driving goal during November.

Emeryville Division drivers topped their target of 13,250 safe-driving miles per accident by averaging 18,250 miles per mishap.

Operators at Richmond Division averaged 13,352 miles per accident, 102 miles per mishap better than their goal.

NEW ARRIVAL—AC Transit is currently receiving 120 new coaches from Flxible company of Loudonville, Ohio. The buses, which cost $42,372 each, are being placed in service as soon as each one gets finishing touches from maintenance department personnel.

PAST MEETS PRESENT—Newark Mayor James Bollentine, right, and Newark Chamber of Commerce President Lyle Kingery, left, helped with the ribbon as horse trainer Louis Silva (white hat), Nicholas P. Alevizos (in uniform) and AC Transit Director Kimi Fuji inaugurate the new Newark bus system with a touch of the past.

SEASON’S GREETINGS—Lisa Horton, left, and Connie Jacobson get a hug from Santa Claus (Nicholas P. Alevizos) during one of the many stops made by the Happy Holidays bus.

AC Transit’s Santa Claus visits area

The Santa Claus Express, AC Transit’s special holiday bus, traveled throughout the East Bay for four weeks before Christmas spreading good will and candy canes to residents and visitors.

The bus, an annual tradition for AC Transit, had Santa Claus aboard in the person of Nicholas P. Alevizos, Transportation Superintendent of Division 3, Richmond. “Saint Nick” was assisted by PBX/Information clerks Florene Braneon and Carol Mori, who donned sporty red and white Christmas outfits to assist as Santa’s helpers.

This was the twelfth year the District sponsored a decorated coach to extend season’s greetings to the public.

This year the bus was done in a “Happy Holidays” motif, with the help of Maintenance Department workers Ernest Passarella, Walter Sandoval, Lawrence Mitchell, Henry Smith, Wayne West, and Robert A. Epperhart.

Season’s greetings in 14 languages decorated the outside of the festive red and white coach. Exterior sides also featured large cut-outs of Santa Claus, with Santa’s sleigh riding on top of the bus. Interior design featured decorative holly strands, and holiday music played via tape recorder for passengers’ pleasure.

Driver dies at home

Driver Paul W. Jones died Nov. 24 at his home, 3118 El Sereno, Alameda.

Jones had been a driver for 23 years and is survived by his wife, Carmelita; a son, William; and a daughter, Celia. He was 50 years old.

FISCAL PROJECTIONS—An expenditure estimate of $40,954,633 for the 1974-75 fiscal year was adopted this month by the Board of Directors. The figure, $5.4 million more than the 1973-74 fiscal year, reflects inflationary costs of fuel and other necessary supplies as well as higher wages for all District employees.

First bi-lingual brochure

In a first for the District, AC Transit is distributing a brochure in Newark printed half in English and half in Spanish. The brochure describes the new bus service which began Dec. 16.

The decision to print the brochure in two languages was made because 22.3 percent of the city’s population is Mexican-American and people of Mexican heritage take an important part in governing the city.

Translation of the material into Spanish was provided by Spanish-speaking personnel in the Newark City Manager’s office.

AC Transit also plans to install bi-lingual signs on the bus stop poles when the signs are completed.

To help distribute brochures to the city’s residents, the Oakland Scavenger Company included copies in their December billings for garbage collection service.

ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES 1974-75 FISCAL YEAR

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REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING AND SUPPLIES

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<td>Estimated Distribution of Expenses 1974-75 FISCAL YEAR</td>
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Col. Copeland retires from Board

Col. Robert M. Copeland officially retires from the AC Transit Board of Directors in January after a tenure of more than 18 years with the District. Copeland's efforts in public service, however, have not been limited to transportation. Copeland has been active in various organizations since his 1948 retirement from the United States Army Corps of Engineers following more than 30 years of military service.

Upon leaving the Army, Copeland immediately became involved in his community of Kensington and the surrounding vicinity, and in 1948 was elected to the Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors, a post he still holds. He also has been active with such organizations as the American Society of Civil Engineers, California Sanitary Districts Association, East Bay Council of Surveying and Mapping, Kensington Property Owners Association, and the Society of American Military Engineers, where he is a charter member.

A member of the original AC Transit Board of Directors formed by the voters in 1956, Copeland indicated he would immediately become involved in his public service, and counsel to provide the best possible public transportation which could be provided.” Bettencourt, also, is an original member of the first AC Transit Board.

Another of the original Board members who still serves is Director John McDonnell, who says of his long-time colleague, "We deeply appreciate his efforts, and extend our best wishes to him in all future endeavors. He has always been a fine public servant.”

New bus shelters now being installed

Installation of 25 new bus shelters in the District began this month, with completion of the project scheduled for mid-January.

Col. Copeland

In assessing the future of the District, Copeland commented, “We have an opportunity to serve the people. Like other public services—fire, police, sewage, water—we need it. AC Transit has been in the forefront of public transportation. I certainly hope we can continue in that position.”

Copeland's stepping down comes as a result of his decision in November not to seek re-election to a post he held for 18 years.

In reviewing Copeland's contributions, AC Transit Board of Directors President William J. Bettencourt says, "We are grateful for his dedication and sincere interest in public transit. He has given much time and counsel to provide the best possible public transportation which could be provided.” Bettencourt, also, is an original member of the first AC Transit Board.

The shelters, which are being installed for passengers' convenience, will provide bus patrons with relief from weather conditions.

IT'S NO ACCIDENT—General Manager Alan L. Bingham congratulates driver Al Engel for completing 25 years of safe driving without a chargeable accident. During that time Engel traveled more than one million miles and carried an estimated two million people. In explaining his formula for safety, Engel says, “You've got to have a little bit of luck and do a lot of defensive driving.”

Losses shown during October

The month of October showed losses in revenue and patronage compared to the same month one year ago. Increases in East Bay revenue and passengers failed to offset passenger diversion to BART's transbay service, which began in September.

Total passenger revenue for October was $1,336,362, down $83,497, or 5.9 percent below the $1,419,859 collected during October, 1973. East Bay revenue, however, was $750,065, up $26,681, or 3.7 percent above the $723,384 dropped into fare boxes a year ago. Transbay revenue of $586,297 was down $110,178, or 15.8 percent below the $696,475 collected in October, 1973.


AC Transit buses carried 4,710,856 passengers during October, down 137,110 riders, or 2.8 percent, from the 4,847,966 patrons of the same month last year. East Bay buses carried 3,592,400 riders, an increase of 5.3 percent, or 181,792, from the 3,410,608 carried in October, 1973. On transbay lines, patronage totalled 1,118,456 for the month, down 318,902, or 22.2 percent less than the 1,437,358 carried during the same month one year ago.

Nationally, the transit industry indicated an increase of 9.11 percent in total passengers carried.

AC Transit operated 2,427,589 miles of service during October, an increase of 44,287 miles, or 1.9 percent, above the 2,383,302 miles operated during October, 1973.
Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting November 27, the Board of Directors:

• Authorized execution of agreement with the City of Newark for operation of local bus service providing District is fully reimbursed for costs, on motion of Vice-president Fujii. (See story, Pg. 4)

• Adopted resolutions declaring the cities of Fremont and Newark annexed to the District, on motion of Director McDonnell.

• Adopted resolution declaring that public interest and necessity demand creation of Special Transit Service District No. 2, on motion of Director McDonnell.

• Adopted resolution providing for public hearing on the creation of Special Transit Service District No. 2, on motion of Director McDonnell.

• Approved minor service adjustment on Line 90/91/92—Hayward, and authorized additional service on Line 92/93—Chabot College, on motion of Director Berk.

• Authorized extension of Dial-A-Ride service area to include El Portal Shopping Center during the holiday season, on motion of Director Berk.

* * *

At regular meeting December 11, the Board of Directors:

• Authorized travel authority for Board President and General Manager to Washington, D.C. conference, and authorized General Manager’s absence from Nov. 27 Board meeting, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Awarded contract for closed circuit television system to American District Telegraph Co., lowest responsive bidder, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for 36 buses to be used on contract extension bus service to BART stations, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

• Adopted final operating estimate for fiscal year 1974-75, on motion of Director Rinehart. (See graph, Pg. 5)

• Awarded contract for closed circuit television system to American District Telegraph Co., lowest responsive bidder, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for 36 buses to be used on contract extension bus service to BART stations, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

• Adopted final operating estimate for fiscal year 1974-75, on motion of Director Rinehart. (See graph, Pg. 5)

• Employed Mund, McLaurin and Co. to review District’s current insurance program, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Adopted resolution declaring results of Nov. 5, 1974, election, on motion of Vice-president Fujii.

• Awarded contract for closed circuit television system to American District Telegraph Co., lowest responsive bidder, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for 36 buses to be used on contract extension bus service to BART stations, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

• Adopted final operating estimate for fiscal year 1974-75, on motion of Director Rinehart. (See graph, Pg. 5)