Exploratory talks for minimal bus service
Underway in central Contra Costa County
Our 'Stockholders' Write

My children and I traveled by AC Transit bus out to the Coliseum yesterday to buy some tickets. It was a longer trip than I had anticipated, but it was certainly made easier and more pleasant by the driver, Emanuel Johnson. He was so courteous and helpful to us and to so many other passengers traveling with him.

It is just a real pleasure to see someone dealing with the public in such a cheerful and concerned manner. I’m sure all your bus drivers are just as pleasant. But I do want to pass along our appreciation for this particular one and commend him for a job well done.

Mrs. J. L. Lay
Alameda

I am writing to thank you for operator Theodore Pate. He is such a pleasant and helpful young man and so nice to senior citizens.

He always waits until we are safely on the bus and sitting down before he starts. I ride all the time, so I feel you don’t know these things and you aren’t told.

Mrs. R. Smith
Oakland

(Our drivers undergo extensive training and are required to rigidly abide by the rules of the road. You have provided us with sufficient information to properly identify the driver. He has been retrained and we have taken action—Ed.)

I would like to commend your driver D. R. Thyme for his courtesy and handling of his bus.

D. R. Thyme
Oakland

A funny thing happened on the way to work this morning. We could see our breath on coach 2013.

Don’t put it in our stockings. We need it on schedule 38 on the N Line.

Thanking you, we remain, chilled to the bone but still in the spirit of the season.

Your very loyal commuters.

Hartwig Heymann
Berkeley

Kimiko "Kimi" Fujii of Hayward is the new president of the AC Transit Board of Directors.

The first woman member of the board, Miss Fujii served two terms as vice president prior to moving into the top job this month.

John McDonnell of Oakland, a member of the board since AC Transit was created by voters in November, 1956, is the new vice president. An East Bay businessman and civic leader, McDonnell was board president in 1967 and 1968.

Kimi Fujii

Before election of officers at the first meeting of the year on January 8, four board members had their oaths of office administered by Municipal Court Judge Robert Fairwell.

Taking oaths as the result of election victories last November were: William J. Bettencourt of San Leandro, board president for the past two years; Miss Fujii and McDonnell. Joining the board as the newest director was Chester C. McGuire of Berkeley.

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John McDonnell

Miss Fujii was appointed to the board in April, 1972, to fill out the remainder of the term of the late E. Guy Warren of Hayward. She campaigned for a full, four-year term and was elected by voters last November, receiving a substantial majority of votes cast.

Associated with her family's wholesale florist nursery and its retail outlet in Hayward, Miss Fujii is active in a number of community betterment projects.
Meetings held with central Contra Costa County Representatives to explore transit solutions

A series of meetings with representatives of central Contra Costa County cities has been launched to see how AC Transit can be of help in meeting local public transportation needs.

Joint discussions involve inauguration of minimal bus service which could be financed from existing taxation in areas involved.

Funds from retail sales taxes currently being collected for transit purposes could pay 75 percent of operating costs, provided service is implemented through an existing transit agency.

In meetings held in Concord, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek, talks have centered around the cost of operating service, routing and schedules. Alan L. Bingham, general manager of AC Transit said.

The transit executive, in discussions with community leaders, has emphasized AC Transit's policy of offering assistance to communities seeking help in getting bus service inaugurated.

The district now has surplus buses and can supply bus service within a short time period to any of the cities which want it, Bingham said.

Bay Bridge tolls
For buses reduced

A decision by the California Toll Bridge Authority to grant free daily passage across the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge during peak commute hours will result in estimated savings of $16,000 per year for AC Transit.

The decision by the Authority will allow all buses, plus cars with three or more occupants, to use the bridge at no charge from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., weekdays.

During a normal year AC Transit spends approximately $28,600 for tolls. Under the new ruling, cost estimates for one year of tolls would be $12,600.

When the decision goes into effect it will be the first time vehicles have crossed the bridge without paying tolls since the bridge opened on November 31, 1936.

Safe-driving goal topped

Drivers at Emeryville and Seminary divisions, as well as Dial-A-Ride operators in Richmond, topped the safe-driving goal during December.

The best record for the month was 16,909 miles per accident scored by Emeryville drivers.

“Borax” Smith sculpture
Buried bust is recovered after 40 years

A bas relief sculpture of Francis M. “Borax” Smith, which lay buried and forgotten for more than four decades, has been recovered and presented to the railroad museum in Rio Vista, California. Smith is credited with founding the Key Route, an antecedent company of AC Transit.

The sculpture, one of two cast in 1933, was buried by the artist to test an aging process. The artist forgot about the buried work until a railliner, Ray Hannah, of Hayward, jogged his memory.

The original sculpture formed part of a plaque marking the 30th anniversary of the first train to operate from the Berkeley station, connecting with the ferry Yerba Buena to San Francisco.

The memorial plaque was presented to Key System on Oct. 24, 1933, and hung in the transit system’s general offices until April, 1963. By then, Key System had been replaced by AC Transit, which was in the process of moving to current general offices in the Latham Square Building.

Plaque Disappeared

The 60 pound plaque disappeared in 1964 and has been untraced ever since. The artists, the Bay Area Electric Railway Association which has since installed it at the museum.

Hannah went searching for Huff and found him living in retirement in Contra Costa County.

It was only after Hannah asked Huff about the sculpture that the artist remembered he had made two castings and buried one in the back yard of his then home in Berkeley.

Huff went back to his former home and dug up the bas relief bust of Smith from where it had lain buried for more than 41 years.

He presented it to Hannah who, in turn, presented it to the Bay Area Electric Railway Association which has since installed it at the museum.

“Borax” Smith, who made his fortune in the borax mines of California and Nevada, started a unified transit system in the late 1890’s by consolidating a number of small, disconnected transit lines.

Although final decisions remain with local governmental bodies, AC Transit has had a long standing policy of cooperating fully with implementation of public transportation systems in areas of Contra Costa and Alameda counties which are outside District boundaries.

Plans for minimal bus service to meet some local transit needs were advanced after voters in central Contra Costa County defeated a measure for a fixed route and a Dial-A-Ride system which would have been funded primarily through increased property taxes.

Discussions also are planned in the future with representatives from other Contra Costa County communities and the Livermore-Pleasanton area of Alameda County.

“The COVER—An aerial photo by Pacific Resources, Inc. illustrates the magnitude of providing local bus service in burgeoning areas such as central Contra Costa County. Involved in current transit planning for minimal bus systems are Concord in foreground, Pleasant Hill in center, and Walnut Creek to the left.”
MILLION MILE BUSES—Coaches 137 and 138 are the first AC Transit buses with more than one million miles of service. They operate out of Seminary Division on transbay runs.

FROSTIE AND FRIEND—It was love at first sight when this young man saw “Frostie the Snowman” entertaining at AC Transit's Christmas Party for commuters in the Transbay Terminal last month.

SPANISH LANGUAGE SIGNS—Newark City Councilman Leon Cortez points to the sentence which tells Spanish-speaking citizens of Newark where to call for information. The phrase appears on all pole signs in Newark.

SHELTERS GOING UP—Passenger shelters such as this one are being installed at 23 East Bay locations to provide protection from bad weather. The one to the left is near St. Rose Hospital in Hayward.

Promotions — Appointments

Transportation
Loren A. Ball has been appointed the newly created position of assistant transportation manager.

Ben F. Williams has been appointed to the position of chief supervisor—assistant superintendent.

William F. Schmid has been promoted from supervisor to central dispatcher.

New Supervisors: the following have been appointed to the position of transportation supervisor: Eugene L. Cota, Calvin E. Grimes, James E. Jeffries, Andrew L. Lemons, Homer J. Metzger, Walter D. Montgomery, Sylvester L. Mosley, Richard D. Mudrick, Joseph J. Mullen and Wayne Onizuka.

Legal
Dan Ready has been appointed assistant trial attorney.

Personnel
John W. Rose has been promoted to affirmative action supervisor.

Stanley O. Pearce has been promoted to the position of superintendent of safety and training.

Instructor Stan B. Hodge has been promoted to the position of chief training instructor.

Ben Davis Jr. has been promoted from temporary to permanent training instructor.

Melody Van has been appointed personnel analyst.
AC Transit welcomed these new workers in October, November and December.
NEW EMPLOYEES

AC Transit also welcomed these new workers in October, November and December

Jane L. Powell  Maintenance  Seminary
Jesse Pagecy  Transfer  General Office
Ben Politz  Transportation  Seminary
Arturo D. Placencia  Transportation  Emeryville
Jesse Presley  Treasury  General Office
Ben Pruitt  Transportation  Seminary
Willie Red  Transportation  Emeryville
August A. Reusche  Maintenance  Seminary
Bruce A. Schill  Transportation  Richmond
Delbert E. Schrimsher  Transportation  Seminary
Russell M. Segure  Schedules  General Office
Vivian L. Smith  Transportation  Emeryville
Jamal A. Sultan  Transportation  Emeryville
Clawson Wallace  Transportation  Emeryville
Vivian L. Smith  Transportation  Emeryville

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6,000,000

3 year passenger revenue comparison

1974
1973
1972

November figures down from last year

Revenue and patronage totals for November were down from November of a year ago; however, the losses were on the transbay lines only — gains were registered on East Bay lines.

Total passenger revenue for November was $1,238,335, down $79,216 or 6.0 percent below the $1,317,551 collected during November, 1973. Transbay revenue of $540,799 was down $122,173 or 18.4 percent below the $662,972 dropped into fare boxes a year ago. East Bay revenue, however, was $697,536, up $42,957 or 6.6 percent above the $654,579 collected during November, 1973.

Commute book sales dropped 36.7 percent to $197,046, down $114,983 from sales of $311,129 during the same month last year.

AC Transit buses carried 4,310,429 passengers during November, down 148,881 riders, or 3.3 percent, from the 4,459,310 carried during the month of November, 1973. Passenger losses were recorded on transbay lines, where patronage dropped 354,805 or 25.8 percent, down to 1,021,852 from the 1,376,657 who rode during the same month a year earlier. On East Bay lines, however, patronage for the month totaled 3,288,577, up 205,924 or 6.7 percent above the November, 1973, figure of 3,082,653.

AC Transit operated 2,249,406 miles of service during November, an increase of 11,016 miles or 0.5 percent above the November, 1973, mileage of 2,238,390.

Nationally, the transit industry indicated an increase in revenue passengers of 1.04 percent.
At an adjourned regular meeting December 26, the Board of Directors:
• Adopted resolution creating Special Transit Service District Number 2, on motion of Director McDonnell.
• Adopted resolution expressing appreciation and best wishes to Director Copeland upon the occasion of his retirement, on motion of Director Berk. (See story, Pg. 3)
• Granted General Manager authority to exercise option for 16 additional mobile radios, on motion of Director Rinehart.
• Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for bus transfers and identification checks, on motion of President Bettencourt.
• Continued extension of Dial-A-Ride service to El Portal Shopping Center for indefinite period, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
• Reclassified and repositioned 31 positions, on motion of Director Rinehart.

At a regular meeting January 8, the Board of Directors:
• Elected Kimi Fujii as president, on motion of Director Rinehart. (See story, Pg. 3)
• Elected John McDonnell as vice-president, on motion of Director Berk. (See story, Pg. 3)