AC Transit Salute to U.S. Bicentennial
1776-1976
The merchants of San Lorenzo Village Shopping Center have directed me to thank Howard Dupuis for his efforts and cooperation in placing the two new bus shelters on Hesperian Boulevard.

We have received numerous comments from both the public and our own merchants as to their attractiveness, convenience and comfort. Please inform those additional responsible for the locations and installation of our appreciation as we feel the shelters have greatly improved our community.

Thomas M. Smith
President
San Lorenzo Village Merchants Assn.

I would like to express a sincere thank-you to those drivers I have come in contact with on the AC Transit staff. I recently moved into the area from the East Coast and believe me it's a breath of fresh air to find courteous, helpful and truly enjoyable service on clean, comfortable buses.

Pat Foster
Oakland

Recently, to my horror, I discovered that I had stepped off the 'F' bus without my purse. I immediately called your Lost and Found division and the woman there was most helpful. My purse was not located immediately, but when, at the suggestion of the woman, I called at 8 p.m., the dispatcher told me my purse had been found intact and urged me to come in immediately, which I did.

Everyone in your company was most helpful and kind including, I'm sure, the bus driver whose identity I do not know, and I just want to thank everyone for being so nice.

Rene Szafir Mandel
Albany

Thank you George Silva for teaching our class the right way to ride a bus. The children really enjoyed the demonstration and learned something too! We discussed it later and I was surprised at how much they remembered.

The following week we took a field trip to Sulphur Creek Park in Hayward and they boarded, rode and got off the bus correctly. I think we can safely say your program was a great success. Thanks again for your time and instruction.

Sally Peterson
Brookfield School
Oakland

I want to thank your driver, A. H. Weir, who was on the 42 line in Alameda today. He was most helpful in suggesting a route to San Francisco, which was better than the line I planned to take, as to timing. This is appreciated.

William A. Kaye
San Francisco

EVEN a heavy morning fog couldn't dampen spirits on Opening Day for Pleasant Hill as city officials James See and Jerry Bevers dance to mellow sounds of Pleasant Hill High School Jazz Band.

Officials laud Pleasant Hill inauguration

Pleasant Hill ushered in a new era of public transit this month as District service began to the accompaniment of two bands, a decorated coach caravan and the enthusiasm of morning-long welcoming festivities.

City officials and guests boarded the bus cavalcade Dec. 8, making a swing over partial routing with stops along the way for Opening Day speeches and greetings.

Pleasant Hill High School Jazz Band played, prompting a fast jitterbug by James See, Director of Public Works and Jerry Bevers, Personnel assistant.

And even a heavy morning fog, couldn't dampen the crowd's spirit as the strains of Diablo Valley College's Symphonic Band warmed the day's enthusiasm.

Mayor Leonard Grote emphasized benefit to all facets of community life provided by the new bus system — a system designed to meet varying needs of commuters and midday patrons.

His comments were echoed by AC Transit Board President Kimi Fujii who pointed to the flexibility of bus routing and growth potential for suburban system patterns.

Later, civic leaders were hosted at an informal reception and buffet at Pleasant Hill's Senior Center where guests mingled with 300 patrons who had come to be photographed for their Bay Region Transit Discount card.

The District this month began transporting the issuance service to handicapped and senior citizen patrons in outlying communities, taking photographic equipment to locations in different cities on Mondays and Wednesdays.

TRAVELING Safety Trophy may stay with Division 6 drivers for some time since they bettered their October record of 77,633 miles driven per accident, raising it in November to 95,790. District safety goal is 13,250 miles.
TRAINED DRIVER—David Rosenberg, tests his skill at the wheel of a new bus acquired for extension service from suburban areas to BART stations. The bus, along with other AC Transit coaches, was available for inspection. Assisting David is his father, Lawrence, District Secretary.

FIRST RIDER—Herman M. Ramos of Dublin is greeted by Driver Donald E. Figas at right as Ramos boards a Line U coach as the first passenger to ride on a bus operating out of the new yard for Division 6. Figas rolled his coach out of the yard at 4:21 a.m., Monday, November 24. Below, the first bus scheduled for preventative maintenance inspection in the new division yard is Coach 803, which awaits a clean bill of health before starting into service.

CAKE CUTTERS—Division 6 Maintenance Superintendent J. M. Galindo and Superintendent L. L. McDonald sliced up portions of the cake.

CROWD PLEASER—As people gathered inside the building above to enjoy coffee and cake, Zack Johnson, left, found a quiet place to contemplate the situation.

Division 6 opening testifies to District expansion

It was an historical event — the opening of a new Division 6 at Newark on Nov. 24.

For the first time since 1947 a new public transit yard in the East Bay was opened by AC Transit (or its predecessor company Key System Transit Lines).

It was a reminder of when Newark was last a transportation hub around the turn of the century. The return to the small community in Southern Alameda County of a major transit facility brought back memories of such names as South Pacific Coast Railroad and Carter Brothers, both famous historical railroad names. Carter Brothers built horse cars, cable cars, electric street cars and railroad cars in Newark; and South Pacific Coast Railroad had its main shops in the area.

Some 250 persons informally gathered for cake and refreshments at the Open House Nov. 23.

CHECKING IN—The first two drivers to stamp their time cards at the Newark yard in the early morning hours were Patrick B. Bohanen, left, and Donald E. Figas.
Manufacturers see
Delayed delivery

Start of mini-route and Dial-A-Ride
service in Fremont and Newark may
be delayed because bus manufacturers
are demanding more time to turn out
the small coaches desired for neigh­
borhood operation.

Three manufacturers have indicated
interest in bidding on the 23 small
buses, but all want more time, John
Krjačar, manager of purchases and
stores, told Board members Dec. 10.

Transcoach, which produced a
prototype bus for testing in Fremont
and Newark, now is asking for a
minimum of 180 days for delivery, as
are other manufacturers, Krjačar said.
Specifications call for 120 days for
delivery.

Minibus has advised the District it
will protest to the Urban Mass Tran­
sportation Administration because the
company needs 240 days to complete
delivery, Krjačar added.

Minibus also indicated it would
protest the bid requirement to furnish
a prototype bus of the
type specified before bid opening.
Highway Products has indicated an in­
terest in bidding, but needs 180 days
for delivery.

The District is scheduled to open
bids on the small bus Dec. 23. The
property has 30 days to award the con­
tract.

Start of zonal service in
Fremont/Newark is tied to delivery of
small coaches.

October Financial
Report

Total operating ex­
 pense for October
was $3,678,739 while
operating income was
$1,665,847. Total in­
come, including sub­
sidies from property
taxes, sales taxes and
Federal aid, amounted
to $4,286,831 and
was sufficient to
cover operating
deficit and full bond
debt requirements.

Nationally, the
transit industry
showed an increase of
0.92 percent in
total passengers
carried.

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<th>Passenger Trips</th>
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<th>October, 1974</th>
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* Fremont service inaugurated Nov. 12, 1974
Newark service inaugurated Dec. 16, 1974
** Contract service to BART inaugurated Dec. 2, 1974
*** Contract service in Concord inaugurated Sept. 8, 1975

Hot and cold

SANTA, played for the 40th year by Richmond Superintendent Nick Alevizos, gets a hot
and cold reaction from two youngsters. Left, he gets a frown from a boy in Oakland Nov.
28 and the next day in Fremont, an affectionate whisker tug from a smiling blond.
Assisting Santa with one youngster was Francine Wilbur. The Santa Express bus made
stops from Richmond to Fremont.

ANNA WONG presents fortune cookies to
Transportation Manager J.D. Goodman in
appreciation for District drivers' service,
adding she wishes "good fortune" to all
operators.
At an adjourned regular meeting November 25, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized participation in 16th Urban Mass Transportation Management Seminar, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contracts for office machines and equipment to lowest responsive bidders, with exception of one item, conditioned on UMTA approval, on motion of Director Nakadegawa. * * *

At a regular meeting December 10, the Board of Directors:

- Awarded contract for 75 passenger shelters, to Cadillac Plastics, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Adopted resolution authorizing the General Manager to file an application for operating assistance under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Set January 28, 1976, 4 p.m., for public hearing on application for federal operating assistance, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to lease 11 surplus buses for use at San Francisco Airport for approximate period of four months, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

**Death takes employee, pensioner**

Edward Chambers, 55, died Nov. 25 after an illness.

He joined AC Transit on April 19, 1966 and served as assistant to supervisor of schedules.

Chambers, of Palo Alto, is survived by his widow, Betty; a daughter, Susan; two step-sons, Robert and James Kellett and a step-daughter, Susan Kellett.

Former mechanic Joseph Giuffre, 83, died peacefully Dec. 7.

He began his career with the District's predecessor company on July 26, 1927 and worked until Feb. 1, 1956.

Giuffre, of Oakland, is survived by two sons, Howard and Alfred.