Bombs Bursting in Air.....
'Uncle Sam' holds flag on high as smoke billows from cannon fire on top AC Transit Bicentennial-decorated coach
Our 'Stockholders' Write

I am in recruit training at the Coast Guard base. This past Saturday I went on liberty. I had occasion to ride several of your buses and would like to make some comments.

Please sit down as you probably don't get many letters like this. I found your drivers very helpful and courteous. I had no trouble getting anywhere.

When I got on a bus the driver could always tell me where to make my connections and which buses to take. I would like to give you my thanks for helping make my only liberty a success.

Lawrence Clark
United States Coast Guard

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We want you to know how much we admire the way D. L. Safford handled a difficult situation. Recently my husband and I boarded the bus at Jack London Square. The bus was empty except for two little girls, one six years old and the other about twelve. The older child was weeping loudly, as they were lost and on the wrong bus.

The driver patiently tried to extract information from them as to where they wanted to go, but the older child was deaf and the younger had limited knowledge.

The deaf child could not be comforted, the six year old was disgusted because her sister had gotten her lost. Mr. Safford continued to reassure them that he was trying to help.

When we got to Broadway and 13th St. the older deaf child became very anxious and tried to communicate that she wanted off as she recognized that this was where she was supposed to deboard.

However, the six year old refused to budge and the older would not leave without her. Mr. Safford remained a picture of calmness throughout all these hysterics and finally managed to convince the six year old that she should go with her sister.

We expressed our admiration for the way he had handled the whole difficult situation and want you to know too.

Mrs. Stanford Davis
Tracy

* * *

I wish to commend one of your bus drivers, Willie Samond. I was a passenger on his bus from the Oakland Airport not long ago, and it is refreshing to encounter a courteous, competent and helpful driver.

Mr. Samond made a special effort to help me make connections to my destination and his courtesy, at the end of a tiring business trip, was most appreciated.

I also would mention that your clean and well maintained equipment is also appreciated.

Thomas T. Lunde
San Francisco

Service cuts possible due to deficit

Preliminary operating estimate adopted

The District board of directors has adopted a preliminary operating estimate for the next fiscal year which would continue improvements credited with sparking a soaring increase in bus riding.

But at the same time, directors pointed out before the final budget is adopted, consideration has to be given to fare increases, cuts in service on low patronage lines and other austerity methods to help cover an escalating deficit situation.

Tax rate set in August

The board took its action this month to authorize spending starting July 1. Further meetings will be held before the final estimate is adopted and the tax rate set. The District property tax rate is adopted in August.

The preliminary budget estimates total expenses, including operations and bond debt service, at $57,166,000, an increase of $8,073,000 over the current fiscal year.

Revenue, including property taxes, is estimated at $40,253,000, leaving a deficit of $16,933,000.

Federal and state subsidies are projected at approximately $11,400,000, leaving some $5,533,000 to be funded with contingency reserves.

Contingency funds endangered

Ray Rinehart, chairman of the board finance committee, observed the budget could wipe out all contingency funds, leaving AC Transit drastically short next year and years after that.

The District payroll, plus fringe benefits, is estimated at $46,228,500 or 80.8 percent of the budget. The other single escalation item is a $502,000 increase in the prices and volume of fuel and oil estimated to be consumed.

"The deficits projected in the next five years are so staggering it appears only the State legislature can help with new sources of funding," Alan L. Bingham, general manager, told directors.

Of the total expenditures of approximately $57.2 million, $49.7 million is estimated for District 1, which covers East Bay cities stretching from San Pablo to Hayward. Expenditures for District 2, which covers Fremont and Newark, are estimated at $3.6 million.
PRESIDENTIAL hopeful Ronald Reagan addresses the press at Oakland campaign stop before his entourage boarded AC Transit Bicentennial buses chartered for trip to Walnut Creek and Rossmoor where the candidate spoke.

Lost and Found clerk

20-year veteran to recover lost leisure

Martha Nielsen, who since 1956 has been synonymous with the Lost and Found Department, has left misplaced goodies behind her for the quiet pleasures of retirement.

Changed frowns into smiles

After close to 20 years of turning a rider's anxious frown into a grateful smile by returning lost valuables, Mrs. Nielsen now plans to enjoy expanded leisure through gardening and visits to relatives in Denver, Colorado.

She began her career on Dec. 17, 1956 as lost property clerk and held that position until retirement.

Safety goal Reached by All divisions

All divisions beat the safe driving goal for the month of May, in terms of miles driven per accident.

With a goal of 13,250 miles per chargeable accident, the District-wide average for March was 15,227.

Division 6 tallied 47,821 miles while Division 2 drivers scored 14,943 miles per mishap.

During May, Division 4 achieved 14,205 miles and Division 3 marked up 13,754 miles driven per accident.

Two drivers added to 25-year safety club, First woman reaches coveted milestone

Two more District operators have joined the national elite of transit workers by reaching 25 years of driving without a chargeable accident. One of them becomes the first female AC Transit driver to have done so.

Number grows to 14

Her success, and that of driver Charles McAdams who acquired 25 years last month, brings to 14 the number of 25-year AC Transit safe drivers.

Friends and co-workers gathered at Emeryville Division June 7 as Mrs. Reba Gauer was honored with congratulations, cake and fellowship.

Before joining Key System in June, 1944, as a street car operator, Mrs. Gauer worked for Los Angeles Railway as a conductor.

When motorization of street car routes began, she transferred to buses for a short time, but returned to street cars until 1947 when she moved to Emeryville Division as a bus driver.

Still stationed in Emeryville, Mrs. Gauer has only four avoidable accidents on her record and all occurred during her first four years as a bus driver.

Married to Emeryville Superintendent Bill Gauer, she makes her home in San Pablo.

McAdams, who is stationed at Seminary Division, received his 25-year pin May 25 when family and friends swelled the crowd of workers celebrating his achievement.

He won his first year safe driving award in 1948 and has become the tenth Seminary driver to reach 25 years.

Began on Treasure Island

McAdams' first association with Bay Area public transit was in 1939 when he worked for Key System on Treasure Island during the World's Fair. He operated a shuttle between trains and ferries.

McAdams served in the Air Force from 1942 until 1945. Following his military discharge, he returned to Key System, this time as an operator out of Emeryville Division.

When Seminary Division opened in September, 1947, he transferred to that post, deciding to remain.

McAdams lives with his wife, Louise, in Hayward.

THE IDEA PAYOFF—Radio Technician G. E. Shelden, Jr., receives the AC Transit VIP (Valuable Ideas Program) award from General Manager Alan L. Bingham. Shelden designed a radio communication system using existing equipment, rather than newer and more specialized material. The design is estimated to result in first year savings of $4,000 to the District. For his idea, Shelden received a check for $400, the highest amount given in the program to date.

THE PRIDE of a job well done is seen in the faces of operators Reba Gauer, left, and Charles McAdams who display their recently received 25 year safe driving pins and arm patches. Both have completed 25 years of driving without a chargeable accident. Some 12 other drivers of the District's 1,300 operator work force have done so.
AC Transit has put “Uncle Sam” on top of its bicentennial-decorated bus to salute the nation’s 200th birthday in a cloud of smoke, the shattering boom of cannons and the flag waving on high.

The result might compare with what happened back in America’s early days when bombs really were bursting in the air. The view of the AC Transit “production” in bicentennial parades also is being likened to the battle between the Merrimac and the Monitor.

It’s a blast. Actually, the parade unit is a result of inter-departmental cooperation.

The maintenance department has built a platform covered with red, and spangled with white stars, so Nicholas P. Alevizos, Richmond division superintendent, can perch on top of the bus dressed as Uncle Sam.

A driver’s seat from a long-retired model coach provided a railing — and a stalwart position.

### Cannons bursting in air

Alevizos, reaching back to the days when he took part in Shriner parade activities, added three miniature cannons. All were mounted on the platform, along with a siren powered by a 12-volt battery. The platform was planned and executed in four days under the direction of AC Transit Maintenance Manager A. R. Lucchesi.

The bus is one of two already painted white, with red and blue stripes, for use on AC Transit lines in communities wanting to ride on board, windows will be pushed back and the passengers given bicentennial flags to wave out of the window.

### Fleet Owner award For Maintenance Bestowed on District

For the 14th consecutive year, AC Transit’s maintenance department has been awarded the Fleet Owner Maintenance Efficiency Award.

Ceremonies were to be held June 23 in Chicago with Joe Galindo accepting the award and congratulations from the National Fleet Owners’ Conference.

The honor is bestowed upon those transit properties whose record of maintenance meets standards based on number of miles per year in use, longevity and safety.

### One employee, pensioner taken by death

Supervisor George T. Maltby died suddenly May 21.

Maltby, 62, began his career in public transit on Nov. 8, 1961.

He is survived by his widow, Linda, of Pittsburg; three daughters, Annette, Katherine and Pamela Maltby and a son, Paul Meltzer.

Former mechanic Nick J. Burgeles, 62, died May 19.

He joined the District’s predecessor company on Oct. 21, 1920 and worked until March 1, 1952.

He is survived by his widow, Victoria, of Santa Cruz and two sons, John and Nick Burgeles.
**Actions of the Board**

At an adjourned regular meeting May 26, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized one District representative to attend Chicago Transit Authority Technical Institute, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
- Expressed opposition to S.B. 1687, as amended, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Approved advertising budget of $267,600 for inclusion in Operating Estimate for fiscal 1976-77, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

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At a regular meeting June 9, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized one District representative to attend National Fleet Owners Conference, on motion of Director Rinehart. (See story, Pg. 6)
- Expressed opposition to A.B. 4522, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Adopted preliminary Operating Estimate for fiscal 1976-77, on motion of Director Rinehart. (See story, Pg. 3)

**New furniture brightens District offices**

Offices throughout the District took on a bright, new look this month with completion of new furniture installation at all divisions, general and executive offices.

More attractive office decor is highlighted by modern design desks, chairs, filing cabinets and credenzas in colors of walnut, apricot and peat.

Planning for the switch to new office accommodations had been in effect for close to two years, with initial bid specifications being drawn in August 1974.

Delivery began in March this year and is now 98 percent complete, according to John Krajcar, Purchasing and Stores Department manager.

Total cost of the project was $160,809.60, of which 80 percent was funded by a grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.