New transit service
Greeted with fanfare
In East Contra Costa
Three weeks ago, I witnessed a touching scene. One of your drivers—John Hodges—who was stopped at a stop sign noticed a man—so crippled—trying to cross the street toward his bus. The driver motioned the man that he would cross over to meet him but evidently the man was totally involved in trying to navigate.

The driver helped the man to board—did not in any way embarrass him—in fact, he did the whole thing so smoothly the man was overcome with gratitude. Everyone on the bus had beautiful words of praise for this man.

The driver was extraordinaire friendly and good-humored. The passengers on the bus, the driver made sure she was at her station safely. I am writing in concern of the way one of your drivers—John Hodges—treats his passengers on the bus. He was extraordinarily friendly and good-humored. The whole busload of people liked him. He announced the streets as he came to turning over to Lost and Found my purse, which was lost on a 67 bus. The aforementioned employee is an asset to AC Transit.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Bay Area is fortunate to have the Sheriff’s Association of Alameda County. Currently, he is a regent for College of Holy Names and serves on the boards of the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Bay Area and of the Shoong Foundation. His eight years of service on the Oakland Housing Authority included four years as chairman, and he is a past director of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce.

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East Contra Costa communities welcome “Tri Delta Transit”

New bus service was inaugurated in Eastern Contra Costa County this month with a series of neighborly ceremonies that would be hard to surpass. Participants turned out by the dozens. Groups of senior citizens took part, furnishing entertainment and refreshments. A large group of happy riders traveled to five communities on a special ceremonial bus.

The start-up of service operated by AC Transit under contract with the Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority took place June 6th.

Mayors of the three cities involved, county and regional officials, and business and civic leaders joined AC Transit General Manager Alan L. Bingham and other invited guests in the fete.

Three new local bus lines — Lines 380, 381 and 382 — were inaugurated, linking the communities of Shore Acres, West Pittsburg, Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley and Brentwood. The lines provide inter-community travel plus connections with BART Express Line P, also operated under contract by AC Transit between Eastern Contra Costa and BART-Concord station.

Free rides the first week was the Transit Authority’s way of inviting potential patrons to try the buses. The 2126 riders accepted the complimentary transportation. By the first Friday, the daily total of rides exceeded the planners’ expectations.

The new service was christened “Tri Delta Transit,” a name planners expect to prove easy to say and remember.

WHIMSICAL WELCOME — Costumed musicians of the Edna Hill School Band rocked the landscaping outside Brentwood City Hall with a humorous medley of tunes. Their performance enlivened the third of five community celebrations.

CUTTING THE RIBBONS — Postmaster Ray Michelotti wielded the scissors, flanked by (left to right) Leonard Celoni, Oakley Water District; Nick Rodriguez, Oakley School Board and Lions Club; Molly Reeves, a Transit Authority director; Alvin Jesse, Oakley Sanitary District; Louise Allington, Senior Citizens Club; Joanne Byer, Soroptimist Club; and Samuel Magistrale, Oakley Fire District.

In Antioch (above right, left to right), Walt Prowell, Sig Lanstrom and Doris Connolly, ambassadors of the Chamber of Commerce; James Davi, mayor pro tern and a Transit Authority director; Les Fontana, Chamber of Commerce president; and Mayor Verne Roberts officially inaugurated the new bus service.

START-UP DAY— In Pittsburg (above left), the ribbon was cut by Frank Quesada, mayor, and a Transit Authority director. Helping hands included (left to right) Jay Flanet, St. Plus Club president, Joseph Sinn, a Transit Authority director, and Calvin Moore of the Chamber of Commerce.

In West Pittsburg, left) Contra Costa County Supervisor Eric Massmart handled the scissors, looking on were (left to right) BART director Nello Bianco, Transit Authority director Helen Macintosh, Louise Giersch of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Transit Authority chairman Barbara Guise and Gene Brusatori, director of the county’s Social Services Department.

CELEBRATING SONGSTRESS — When May Rodrigues played her home-made horn (fashioned from the upper part of a drip-style coffee pot) the other start-up day celebrants couldn’t resist the urge to sing along. A member of the Antioch Seniors’ “Kitchen Band,” she added much to the festive air during the inaugural day bus trip. Her music supplemented the entertainment provided by AC Transit’s own Dixieland trio — Supervisor Don Meyers and bus drivers Chester Anderson and Ron Freand. And Senior Transportation Planner, Gene Gardiner, who was involved in developing the new service, returned from vacation to lead riders on the ceremonial bus in singing.

RIBBONS parted as bus service started
AC Transit's legal staff represents District in many ways

**Trial attorneys act as in-house Law firm with busy court schedule**

What's the connection between a dent on the side of a bus, an employee who's dissatisfied with a grievance procedure, and the expiration of a union contract?

The answer is that all are events of particular concern to the District's legal staff, supervised by Richard W. Meier, Chief Trial Attorney.

Meier and Attorneys Richard L. Kassis and Daniel J. Ready function, as, according to Meier, "a law firm for the District." In their activities, they work closely with both Claims and Personnel, utilizing a "team concept" which has stood the District in good stead.

In dealing with damage suits, for instance, Meier estimates that the District's "settlement figures are among the lowest in the Bay Area," though he stresses that the chief emphasis in this area is making sure that fraudulent claims are exposed and that settlements for just claims represent a fair figure.

**Injury claims**

Most commonly, according to Meier, damage suits stem from onboard falls or cases of passengers claiming injury when there's been some type of bus/vehicle contact, no matter how slight.

"About 85 percent of jury verdicts and arbitration awards are returned in favor of the District," Meier says, estimating that, at present, 13 suits are filed against the District per month. There are currently 325 active lawsuits on the books.

The labor arbitrations involve the District and a union employee who is dissatisfied with a grievance procedure. The attorneys work closely with Personnel on arbitrations to insure a just disposition.

In the area of preventive legal activity, the staff spent three months, also working with Personnel, to set up a series of training seminars on consistent and fair application of discipline. The seminars have been given since the beginning of the year to employees from supervisors on up.

This month, the attorneys also have been involved in contract negotiations, necessitating weeks of preparation and long hours across the bargaining table. Another area of working as a team with Personnel is in AC Transit's affirmative action program. Dick Kassis (an Emeryville City Councilman) serves also as legal advisor to the Pension Board.

The legal trio must maintain a lively pace, for they currently average about 50 court appearances and depositions each month in their goal of "attempting to provide," according to Meier, "the most effective legal representation for the District."

**Nisbet serves Board, management; Performs as legislative liaison**

Robert E. Nisbet, attorney for the District, wears a number of hats: some representing his responsibilities to AC Transit's Board of Directors and to its management, plus others indicative of his function as liaison to various outside organizations whose actions affect the District.

As AC Transit's chief legal advisor, he is one of three individuals (along with Alan L. Bingham, general manager, and Lawrence A. Rosenberg, district secretary and administrative projects manager) who report directly to the Board. He advises Directors on any and all legal matters relating to the operations of a public transit district which must adhere to stringent federal, state, and local requirements.

He serves also as legal advisor to the General Manager and to department heads.

He is concerned with the District's contractual obligations, including operating contracts, service agreements with East Bay cities, and contracts with other public agencies.

**Other duties**

Responsibilities also include overseeing the activities of the Legal Department, with its three attorneys, though he is not generally involved in the department's day-to-day operations; and supervising any legal work assigned to outside consultants.

A considerable portion of his time, however, is now allocated to the "quasi-legal area of legislative liaison."

This involves keeping an eye on legislation that might affect the District; providing active support for legislation that would be beneficial to the District in meeting its transit goals; reviewing material emanating from state and federal agencies for its application to District operations; and representing AC Transit before and within a wide variety of public agencies and legislative bodies.

Nisbet, a native of Oakland, is a graduate of UC, Berkeley, with a law degree from Hastings.
Elderly, disabled
In Concord to use
Lift-equipped bus

AC Transit will install a wheelchair lift device on one of its buses for special service being operated by the City of Concord for elderly and handicapped people living in that community.

The board of directors authorized the installation of the lift on a coach at a meeting June 8, with the provision that costs be covered by funds made available to Concord from the State sales tax on gasoline.

Concord, which already provides service with a van for 35 to 40 elderly and handicapped people a day, will handle reservations for the lift-equipped coach and coordinate the service. The operation will be part of the contractual agreement already existing between the city and AC Transit.

A city-operated van now takes riders from their door to the senior citizen center, on shopping trips and to medical appointments. AC Transit will adjust the seating configuration on a bus, purchase and install wheelchair securement devices and widen the front door to accommodate a wheelchair lift.

The lift is being provided by Environmental Equipment Corporation of San Leandro as a test of a newly-developed design.

Concord also plans to use the bus in regular service during the evening commute peak.

Service speeds up

Faster bus service for commuters and midday passengers in Orinda and Moraga went into effect this month.

Both bus lines serving the area, Line 350 and 351, now operate approximately every 20 minutes during commute hours, with Line 350 operating as frequently as every 17 minutes during the afternoon commute period.

Both lines operate approximately every 45 minutes midday.

Line 350 buses begin operating to BART/Orinda from Moraga Way and Moraga Road at 6:14 a.m., with the last bus leaving at 8:11 p.m.

Line 351 buses begin operating to BART/Lafayette from Moraga Way and Moraga Road at 6:12 a.m., with the last bus leaving at 8:11 p.m.

New small "mini-buses" are being used for the improved service. The little buses are 25 feet long and seat 25 passengers.

Four retired transit veterans meet deaths

The deaths of four retirees have been reported.

Oren C. Stalker, 65, who retired as a Richmond Division driver in 1972, died in Richmond May 30 after a brief illness. His transit employment dated from 1942. Funeral services were held June 3, with burial at Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Richmond. He is survived by his wife, Elsie; sons Ronald and Donald; and daughters Sandra Seppala and Marcia Brasier.

Lawrence J. Downey, 87, who retired in 1950 after 38 years as an electrical lineman and foreman, died in Hayward June 6. His home was in Oakland. He had completed 30 years in transit work at the time he retired. Funeral services were at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, San Leandro.

He is survived by his widow, Pearl; and three children: William and Gary Defer, and Camille Gomes.
Are you reading us?

Are you regularly receiving your complimentary copy of Transit Times?

For those employees and members of the public who wish to keep informed on activities within the AC Transit District, a phone call (664-7678, Ext. 221) is all that's needed to place your name on the mailing list or to correct a listing for those whose copies may have been going astray.

Transit Times is published monthly by the Marketing Department, Latham Square Building, Oakland.

Board Actions

(Continued from back page)

- Awarded contract to Rowe International, Inc. for furnishing bill-coin changer machines, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized proceeding with contract purchase of 66 Advance Design Buses from General Motors Corporation, with understanding that a wheelchair lift can be retrofitted if desired by District, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized travel for one employee to attend APTA Marketing Division meetings during 1977 and 1978, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized one participant to attend Professional Program in Urban Transportation, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized one participant to attend Urban Mass Transportation Management Seminar, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Adopted resolution urging Metropolitan Transportation Commission to encourage City of Walnut Creek to consult with AC Transit regarding operation of local transit service, in lieu of approving TDA funds to operate an independent system, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Approved service to Golden Gate Fields for harness racing season July 14 through August 14, 1977, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized one participant to attend APTA A Marketing Division meetings during 1977 and 1978, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized travel for one employee to attend TDA annual meeting full bond debt requirements and operating costs.
- Contract services are being paid for by the community involved.
- Nationally, the transit industry showed a decrease of 4.46 percent in total passengers carried.

April Financial Report

Total operating expenses, including interest on bond debt and principal on bond debt, for April, 1977, was $4,429,505 and left a deficit of $171,740 in meeting full bond debt requirements and operating costs. Contract services are being paid for by the community involved.

Nationally, the transit industry showed a decrease of 4.46 percent in total passengers carried.

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<tr>
<th>Passenger Trips</th>
<th>April, 1977</th>
<th>April, 1976 % Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>3,502,887</td>
<td>3,672,985</td>
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<td>Transbay</td>
<td>1,108,626</td>
<td>989,847</td>
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<td>Fremont/Newark</td>
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<td>102,511</td>
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<td>BART</td>
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At an adjourned regular meeting May 25, the Board of Directors:

- Awarded contract to RCA Rubber Company for furnishing bus floor covering material, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract to De Poortere Corporation for furnishing vinyl bus seat covering material, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract to Cadillac Products, Incorporated, for furnishing bus interior ceiling panels, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract to Pacific Felt Company, Incorporated, for furnishing bus passenger seat molded polyurethane, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contracts for furnishing automotive parts to lowest responsive bidder on each item for which bids were received, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Rejected all responses to items in two proposals, for which no formal bid was received, and authorized General Manager to negotiate on the open market for these items, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract to The Hub Schneider for furnishing uniform shirts for bus drivers, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized travel for winner and spouse of AC Transit in-house bus rodeo to attend the 1977 National Bus Rodeo sponsored by APFA in Atlanta, Georgia, during October, 1977, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Approved an advertising budget of $274,395 for inclusion in Operating Estimate for Fiscal Year 1977-78, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

At a regular meeting June 8, the Board of Directors:

- Awarded a contract to Lectriks, Inc. for furnishing closed circuit television systems, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.

(Continued on Page 10)