Our 'Stockholders' Write

I would like to bring to your attention an honest deed which was performed by AC Transit driver F.C. Gazaway. Mr. Gazaway returned my purse which I had left on his bus. I had valuable papers, along with cash, in the purse.

It is heartening to know that AC Transit has employees of the caliber and honesty of Mr. Gazaway.

Lela Brown
Oakland

I teach at Merritt College, and I just want to attest to the generally efficient and courteous service we have been receiving through these past years on the 37 line.

John A. Paul
Oakland

I am writing about the removal of the bus stop at 47th and Grove (northbound), which was not a good idea because it caused patrons to walk a further distance at night through a neighborhood that could be called anything but good.

I think your ridership should be allowed some input into where bus stops should be.

Phyllis S. Hart-Hager
Oakland

(Ed. Note: Your letter was referred to the Transportation Department, which reports that the stop was not intentionally eliminated and that the knocked-down pole is being restored.)

* * *

You have in your employ a very exceptionally fine bus operator. Lucius Lee, Jr., is not only a skillful driver, he is also the most friendly and accommodating driver I have encountered to date.

Maitland B. McKenzie
Alameda

I do not usually go to the trouble of writing letters of complaint, but a traffic abuse so flagrantly out of line and dangerous occurred that I am compelled to do so against the grain of habit and inertia.

Your bus cut very, very sharply in front of me into the left-hand lane with no prior warning whatsoever. Only by slamming on my brakes very quickly was I able to avoid hitting the bus.

Now I realize that the bus driver has a problem at that corner, since he has only one short block (less than that, in fact) in which to move from the stop at the curb into position to make a left-hand turn. However, I cannot let myself be the victim of such an outrageous action by any driver without doing what little I can to protest.

I consider myself and my daughter very, very lucky that we managed to escape with only ruffled tempers and elevated blood pressures, and you should consider yourselves very lucky also.

Audrey S. King
Concord

(Ed. Note: Since our operators undergo a very extensive driver training program and are required to abide by the rules of the road, we appreciate being informed of any safe-driving infractions. Consequently, the matter has been referred to the Transportation Department for investigation.)

* * *

I would like to thank two of your supervisors, J. J. DePreter and J. J. Mullen, for their assistance in getting an extra coach for a field trip my class took to the Oakland Courthouse.

Please convey my appreciation to them.

Teresa B. Hom
Saint Joseph's Notre Dame
Alameda

Regional Transit Association

Programs geared to mutual benefits

As an idea whose time has come, the Regional Transit Association (RTA) is recording an impressive agenda of mutually beneficial projects which involve the six major public agencies providing transit in the Bay Area.

AC Transit, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SanTrans, San Francisco Municipal Railway and Santa Clara County Transportation Agency are joining together to develop and implement programs which assist passengers, reduce costs and make for closer cooperation of the properties involved.

Seven committees plus a board of control representing each of the transit groups are working together on such diverse activities as joint purchasing of batteries, regional marketing design, common fare structures, and most recently, a safety and sensitivity program for operators relating to serving the elderly and handicapped.

Contract service to open in West Contra Costa

Bus service for communities in the northwest corner of Contra Costa County was given the green light this month when Directors approved a contract which will extend service on Line 7SA-El Cerrito-Richmond to the town of Crockett on the Carquinez Strait. Currently, service on this line ends in San Pablo.

Beginning in early Fall, buses will travel via San Pablo Ave. (which becomes Parker Ave. in Rodeo and Crockett) to serve residents of Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo, Crockett and the unincorporated communities along the way.

On each trip, the bus also will stop at Hilltop Shopping Center in Richmond. Initially, these trips will be scheduled for weekdays-only at 60-minute intervals. Trips inbound from Crockett will begin before 8 a.m., with the last return trip leaving Brookside Hospital in San Pablo at 5:47 p.m.

AC Transit will operate this service under contract with the Western Contra Costa Transit Authority, which will offer its own para-transit including limited dial-a-ride transportation for seniors and the handicapped. The agreement includes provision for universal transfers to be issued and accepted between the two systems.

THE COVER — Communities in Western Contra Costa County are preparing to welcome local transit service. The District, under contract with the area’s local Transit Authority, will be extending Line 7SA service to the town of Crockett. After the start-up of service, scheduled for early Fall, the buses will stop along the way in Pinole, Rodeo and the newly-developed, fast-growing community of Hercules.

The Line 7SA extension will make transfer connections with locally-operated neighborhood transit and also take West Contra Costa riders to and from Richmond’s Hilltop Shopping Center.
Safe driving records
Compiled by operators
Announced for spring

All divisions met the monthly safe driving goal in April, achieving a District-wide average of 17,651 miles between accidents. The monthly safety goal is an average of 13,250 miles per chargeable accident.

Newark Division beat that goal by a wide margin, averaging 44,107 miles per mishap; Emeryville Division tallied 17,941 miles.

Seminary Division operators averaged 15,773 miles; and Richmond Division drivers logged 15,576 miles between accidents.

In March, Newark Division surpassed the safe driving goal by a comfortable margin, averaging 39,798 miles between accidents. Seminary Division drivers averaged 14,016 miles per mishap in March; Richmond Division averaged 13,849 miles.

Research & Planning Promotion announced

Mechanic J. B. Schaefer, Retiree W. F. Cooper die

One employee and one retiree died in recent weeks.

Walter F. Cooper, 68, who had completed 31 years as a driver when he retired last October, died May 12.

Of his years of service, 30 were spent at Richmond Division. Before retiring, he had received a 21-year safe driving award.

Cooper is survived by his widow, Leona, and two children, Marvin Cooper and Mary Sue Moore. He lived in Richmond.

John B. Schaefer, 60, a mechanic at Emeryville Division, died April 29 in Oakland. An employee since 1959, Schaefer became a mechanic after moving from New Jersey, where he had had previous experience as a driver. His entire period of service was at Emeryville Division.

Fun tours info available

This year’s Summer Sunshine Fun Tours program, a twelve-week “Travelin’ Show” which begins June 10th, offers East Bay bus riders trips to 20 different, interesting destinations.

Brochures now available describe in detail the various tours — rides through scenic countryside, shopping expeditions, and visits to historical sites and amusement centers.

If you would like a tour brochure or additional information, write AC Transit, 508 16th St., Oakland, CA, 94612, or telephone Tour Information, 654-7877, Ext. 314.

MTC honors Bingham

Directors President John McDonnell outlines the accomplishments of the late Alan L. Bingham at a Metropolitan Transportation Committee (MTC) award ceremony honoring Bingham. Louise P. Giersch, Chairman of the MTC, left, announced the award during May 24th ceremonies held at the BART/Lake Merritt mall. Mrs. Joyce Bingham accepted the honor in behalf of her husband. McDonnell, in his praise of Bingham, described the former General Manager of AC Transit as “a giant in the industry. Public transit lost a good friend and a great leader when Al Bingham died.”

Bingham, who died Jan. 1st of a heart attack, had been general manager of AC Transit since 1967.

Priority seating

Special Seating — A new “priority” seating sign is checked by Artist Joe Kennedy and Marketing Department’s Sharon Rodriguez. In coming weeks, this sign will be posted on buses above several seats near the drivers. An accompanying informational campaign will ask bus riders to cooperate by yielding the designated seats for the convenience of elderly and handicapped patrons aboard the buses.

Effects of June 6 ballot

The June issue of Transit-Times will carry an assessment of the effects of Proposition 13 or Proposition 8, depending on the outcome of the June 6 statewide election.

Dead-line for this issue prohibited analysis of the election.

Berkeley patrons to get
Mid-day bus use benefits
With Shop-Around passes

Visitors to downtown Berkeley soon will enjoy the convenience of unrestricted transfers on buses serving the main shopping corridor.

Shop-Around Passes will provide mid-day riders unrestricted travel on Shattuck Ave. between Rose St. and Derby St., continuing on Adeline Ave. between Derby St. and Alcatraz Ave.

The passes will be available from drivers at the cost of the rider’s regular fare, and may be used for travel within the zone plus the trip home between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

District Directors approved the Berkeley program earlier this month, and implementation is scheduled to be complete by the end of June.

Board Actions
(Continued from back page)

Costa County Transit Authority for local bus service, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Authorized Acting General Manager to implement a Shop-Around Pass program for Berkeley, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Adopted recommendation that all trips on Line 82 to and from BART Bayfair operate directly via 159th Avenue, on motion of Director Rinehart.

BINGHAM PRaised — AC Transit Board of Directors President John McDonnell outlines the accomplishments of the late Alan L. Bingham at a Metropolitan Transportation Committee (MTC) award ceremony honoring Bingham. Louise P. Giersch, Chairman of the MTC, left, announced the award during May 24th ceremonies held at the BART/Lake Merrit mall. Mrs. Joyce Bingham accepted the honor in behalf of her husband. McDonnell, in his praise of Bingham, described the former General Manager of AC Transit as “a giant in the industry. Public transit lost a good friend and a great leader when Al Bingham died.”

Bingham, who died Jan. 1st of a heart attack, had been general manager of AC Transit since 1967.
**Retirement Roll-Call**

**Plans vary but leisure’s here for 3**

![Arthur Spedowsfski](image1.jpg)  
 **Joe W. Pryor**  
 ![Thomas Brand](image2.jpg)

After 32 years of service in both rail and bus transit, Operator Joe W. Pryor plans an active retirement centering around improving and enjoying his Lake County vacation place, plus looking after property he owns in Oakland.

He, wife Exie, and mother-in-law Adeline Banks, an active 87-year-old, expect to make good use of the fishing and boating opportunities which the Pryors’ Clear Lake “retreat” affords.

Pryor admits, however, to a tinge of regret at not seeing his long-time patrons on Line 18, which he describes as the “best line” he served during 20 years of driving, out of Emeryville Division. His earlier Key System experience was as a workman, then a foreman, in maintenance of streetcars and trains. Like many others, he spent the war years as a welder in the shipyards and trains. Like many others, he spent the war years as a welder in the shipyards and trains.

In retirement, the Pryors plan to remain in their Oakland home.  

A skilled golfer and dedicated toiler in the showplace gardens surrounding his San Leandro home, Thomas Brand has had, temporarily, to give up both interests while he recuperates from a heart attack.

A driver for 31 years prior to his May 1 retirement from Seminary Division, Brand looks forward to resuming golf and gardening, plus beginning the overseas travel which he and wife Fidelis have planned.

As a driver since 1946, Brand has worked mostly on transbay runs. As a handicap-5 golfer, he’s noted for having won three AC Transit golf tournaments.

The Brands’ home, which they bought in 1945, reflects the results of years of skilful re-modeling efforts. The gardens are of such note that, at times, motorists stop to admire the floral display.

The Brand family includes a son, Jon, who currently serves as mayor of Laguna Beach and who plans to be a candidate for the state senate.

It isn’t everyone who can claim to have earthquake recording equipment and a weather station in his own home. One man who can is Arthur Spedowsfski, who retired May 1 as a mechanic at Emeryville Division.

After 32 years of concentrating his skills on the challenge of keeping transit vehicles (starting with streetcars and trains) in working order, he is pleased to have more time to devote to such hobbies as meteorology, seismology, and model railroading. A penchant for diverse interests has even made Art an ex-hobbyist in at least one field—toy-making. He’s given up making the wooden toys (including child-sized versions of AC Transit buses) for which he was once noted.

Besides retirement, Art and wife Marjorie celebrated another significant event this spring, their 40th wedding anniversary. The Spedowskis have three children — Gary, Rodger, and Nancy — plus nine grandchildren.

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**March Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passenger Trips</th>
<th>Mar. 1978</th>
<th>Mar. 1977</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>3,826,409</td>
<td>4,119,838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transbay</td>
<td>1,195,172</td>
<td>1,287,507</td>
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<td>Fremont/Newark</td>
<td>112,148</td>
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<td>Contract Services:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>BART</td>
<td>104,991</td>
<td>106,938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>52,925</td>
<td>55,335</td>
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<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
<td>14,289</td>
<td>12,924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moraga/Orinda</td>
<td>13,044</td>
<td>11,158</td>
<td>16.9</td>
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<td>Pittsburg/Antioch/ Brentwood*</td>
<td>10,511</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>5,707,385</td>
<td>-7.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

| Fare Revenue | East Bay | 712,583 | 793,455 | -9.0     |
| East Bay     | 632,141  | 661,581 | -4.5     |
| Fremont/Newark | 21,204 | 20,543  | 2.2     |
| Contract Services:  |
| BART         | 33,880   | 34,896  | -3.2     |
| Concord      | 8,200    | 9,673   | -15.1    |
| Pleasant Hill | 1,805   | 1,776   | 1.6     |
| Moraga/Orinda | 1,930   | 1,661   | 14.8     |
| Pittsburg/Antioch/ Brentwood* | 2,651 | — | — |
| Total        | 1,414,894| 1,513,705| -6.5     |

| Service Miles | East Bay | 4,765,592| 4,893,371| -.9     |
| East Bay     | 1,476,509| 1,489,317| -2.3     |
| Fremont/Newark | 135,830 | 126,793 | 7.1     |
| Contract Services:  |
| BART         | 149,043  | 147,560 | 1.0     |
| Concord      | 49,240   | 47,642  | 3.4     |
| Pleasant Hill | 10,847   | 10,846  | 1.9     |
| Moraga/Orinda | 13,044   | 12,924  | 10.6     |
| Pittsburg/Antioch/ Brentwood* | 35,450 | — | — |
| Total        | 2,707,543| 2,590,106| .6     |


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**3 year passenger trip comparison**

- **1976**
- **1977**
- **1978**

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**Passenger Trips**

**Mar. 1978**

- East Bay: 3,826,409
- Transbay: 1,195,172
- Fremont/Newark: 112,148

**Mar. 1977**

- East Bay: 4,119,838
- Transbay: 1,287,507
- Fremont/Newark: 111,585

**% Change**

- East Bay: -7.6%
- Transbay: -7.2%
- Fremont/Newark: .4%
Actions of the Board

At a regular meeting April 12, the Board of Directors:
- Authorized sale of 39 older GMC buses via sealed bid, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized General Manager to enter into agreement with CALTRANS for purchase of 30 bus shelters under FAU Program and to advertise and seek bids for the purchase, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized General Manager to request proposals from consulting firms for conducting Passenger Profile Analysis, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

At an adjourned regular meeting April 26, the Board of Directors:
- Authorized Acting General Manager to enter into agreement with Wilbur Smith & Associates, Inc., in association with Leo A. Daly Company, both of San Francisco, to conduct Master Plan Study, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized Acting General Manager to enter into agreement with DeLeuw, Cather & Company to conduct environmental impact analysis in connection with proposed fare adjustments, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized operation of sightseeing tours June 10 through September 1, 1978, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

(Continued on page 5)