'Season's Greetings'
Rolls into operation
The purpose of this letter is to insure that the supervisor of Mr., Randal West of the Scheduling Department is made aware of the courteous, willingness to listen, and response Mr. West gave to me.

I contacted him regarding the scheduling of bus service in the vicinity of Washington High School in Fremont. He immediately checked the schedule and saw the problem. He promised to investigate, try to find a solution and let me know the result.

He returned my call and was most accommodating. By slightly revising the schedule, bus service was better coordinated with the dismissal time of the students from school.

It was gratifying to have someone serving the public really show a desire to be pleasant and helpful.

Connie Burgess
Fremont

As a long-term and satisfied rider of the F Express from Berkeley to San Francisco, I was upset to observe that the right rear tire of the bus was completely bald and had absolutely no tread.

I trust that corrective steps will be taken to insure that all AC Transit buses are outfitted with safe tires.

Michael A. Papp
Kensington

(Ed. Note: According to R. H. Bertz, maintenance manager, tires are inspected nightly. They must meet the tread depth requirements set forth by the Department of Transportation. Rear tires might appear to be "bald" because a standard, straight groove is used rather than a zig-zag groove.)

This letter is to give a compliment for the outstanding service and courtesy of Operator William A. Scott. My trip to Oakland involved a long trip at a very busy time on Line 57 so I had plenty of opportunity to note this operator's outstanding service to all persons.

It is my thought that AC Transit will be pleased to receive this compliment to an outstanding employee.

Ms. E. Carlson
San Francisco

This letter is to acknowledge the efforts of two of your employees — Mr. William Neubert, a driver, and Mr. Chuck Sigler, assistant superintendent, Newark Division — who helped my mother in Fremont recently.

Mr. Neubert found my mother's purse at a bus stop on Mowry Avenue, then turned the purse over to Mr. Sigler. When Mr. Sigler tried to telephone my mother to tell her he had her purse, he realized that something else was wrong. He could have considered it none of his business and put the purse aside to be picked up later. Instead, he persisted in his efforts by taking the purse to her. That is when he learned that the retarded daughter who lives with my mother was lost and that my mother was having difficulty coping with the fact that her daughter was missing as well as her purse.

Needless to say, either problem could have had disastrous results. Fortunately, both were resolved satisfactorily. I do not believe that the problem of the purse would have been so happily worked out if it had not been for the alertness of Mr. Neubert or for the persistence of Mr. Sigler who returned the purse and made sure everything was all right.

M. Rita Howe
Fremont

Our 'Stockholders' Write

Four Directors win voters' support

East Bay voters filled four positions on AC Transit's Board of Directors during the general election November 7.

Incumbent Director John L. McDonnell, a businessman currently representing Ward Three (Alameda, Piedmont and parts of Oakland), was returned to office, according to the initial, unofficial election results.

McDonnell is currently serving as president of the Board.

Director William J. Bettencourt, a public relations executive who with McDonnell has served on the Board since its inception in 1956, was returned to office representing Ward Four (Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and parts of East Oakland).

Incumbent Director Jean A. Holmes, a Fremont businesswoman appointed last year to represent Ward Five (Fremont, Newark and most of Hayward), also was returned to her seat on the Board.

And, according to the vote tally, Director Roy Nakadegawa, a civil engineer first elected to the Board in 1972, outpolled Director Paul B. Godkin for the single at-large seat up for election.

Moraga-Orinda riders To receive improved And extended service

Country Coach riders in Moraga and Orinda will notice several service improvements early next month.

Beginning December 4, buses on Lines 350 and 351 (operated by the District under contract in the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette area) will be operating more frequently — at 20-minute intervals during weekday morning and afternoon commute periods, at a 40-minute frequency midday.

At the same time, Line 350 service will be extended into North Orinda, linking Orinda Village and nearby residential areas along Miner Road and Orindawoods Road with BART/Orinda.

Service continues on the present route via Moraga (with a commute-hour-only extension to Joaquin Moraga School), St. Mary's College, Rheem Center, Lafayette (where additional stops will be established) and BART/Lafayette.

THE COVER — With paint brushes in hand, Walter Sandoval of Maintenance prepares to put final touches on these bearers of Christmas greetings. The figures and ornamented trees will adorn the “Santa Claus Express” — that brightly decorated bus which for the 15th year will take Santa, Christmas carols and candy canes to all areas served by AC Transit. This year, the bus is scheduled to make special "candy cane stops" throughout the urban East Bay, in Fremont and Newark, and in contract service areas in central, eastern and western Contra Costa County.

Area gets Saturday service

Bus riders in Pittsburg, Antioch and Brentwood are enjoying special Saturday service during the Christmas season.

Saturday schedules — extending local service in eastern Contra Costa County to six days a week — were inaugurated late this month and continue through December 23rd.
Promoting opportunity is a full-time job

The Affirmative Action Coordinator has a complex and important responsibility which can be best summed up in a simple statement: to monitor and promote the long-standing policy of providing equal opportunity in every aspect of District business.

AC Transit has always been an equal opportunity employer, making jobs available to all applicants without regard to their heritage, and also has always provided bus service and business opportunities to every segment of the community.

John W. Rose Jr., formerly Affirmative Action representative, is now Affirmative Action Coordinator. The change in title - along with a clear definition of a broad range of responsibilities - reflects the District's continuing commitment to vigorously pursue its equal opportunity policy.

A veteran of a quarter of a century in East Bay public transit, Rose is well equipped for the job - with an intimate familiarity with District personnel matters, particularly employment and promotional processes.

Varied Duties

In recent years, he's had direct responsibility for monitoring District policy of equal access in all aspects of personnel matters - in hiring, training, promotions and transfers, and in terminations, too.

His office aggressively assists other departments in promoting employment in the work force and advancement to decision-making levels of individuals from every segment of society.

The Affirmative Action Coordinator also oversees vigorous efforts to ensure that throughout all communities the District serves, minority-owned businesses are aware of opportunities to provide service and supplies to the District.

In this endeavor, Rose is ably assisted by newly-appointed Minority Business Enterprise Representative Sandra Privett, whose experience includes dealings with the many aspects of small-and minority-owned-business enterprises.

The Minority Business Enterprise representative, under supervision from Rose, ensures that all District departments which deal with suppliers of materials and services communicate all up-coming opportunities to the entire business community.

At the same time, the M.B.E. representative gets outside the District offices to actively seek out minority-owned business, and to make sure these businesses are aware of the District's effort to involve all possible suppliers to the maximum possible extent.

Yet another of the Affirmative Action Coordinator's many duties is to monitor and report on bus service throughout the 600-square-mile area AC Transit serves - from Brentwood to Crockett, San Pablo to Fremont - ensuring that transportation is made available to all sectors of the communities.

Now, all District efforts to meet these manifold objectives are monitored - and energetically encouraged - by a staff-level Affirmative Action Coordinator under the direct guidance of the General Manager.
Transit people

Two retire, two receive promotions

Retiring after 33 years of transit service, Ida Sanders looks forward to enjoying a leisure life centering around her home in Richmond, where she's lived since 1947. She expects to have more time now for working in her flower garden and for keeping tabs on her family, which includes two children — Donna Parker and Melvin Poppe — and grandchildren.

After completing a wartime stint as a production worker in the shipyards, Ida joined Key System as a ground-based fare collector, then became a receiver, responsible for opening fareboxes and counting cash and tokens.

When Richmond Division opened in 1947, she went there as chief receiver. Later, as a clerk at the division, she performed such functions as time-keeping, giving schedule and route information to the public, issuing stock, and keeping records. At retirement, she held the position of senior clerk.

Thomas A. Murray, retiring after 25 years behind the wheel at Emeryville Division, is looking forward to some very busy leisure years.

In his long and varied transportation career, Murray worked railroads, airlines and steamships before joining the District's predecessor in 1953. More recently as a bus driver, he's been serving riders and winning friends on Line 65.

Murray and wife Susie make their home in Sacramento, where he plans to divide his time between favorite sports (golf, bowling and fishing) and a typewriter.

A relative and childhood buddy of famed "Roots" author Alex Haley, Murray says he'll now be writing a chronicle of his branch of the family — from where "Roots" (with his and Haley's common heritage) ended to the present.

Moving up

Two appointments have been made in the Schedule Department.

Harold W. Fell, who joined AC Transit in 1962 as a traffic checker, is now superintendent of schedules. He was assigned to this post after serving for 11 years as assistant superintendent of schedules, supervisor of schedules, and senior schedule analyst.

In earlier years, Fell was employed in the metal findings industry. He also operated his own hobby shop business for 11 years. During World War II, he served in the Army Quartermaster Corps.

Fell's family includes wife Ruth; two children, Jeanne and James; and seven grandchildren. He lives in El Cerrito but has acquired a second home near Colfax where he plans to retire.

One of his outside interests is railroad history.

Randal W. West is now assistant to the supervisor of schedules after serving as senior schedule analyst.

He joined AC Transit in 1969 as mail boy, then moved upward to positions as traffic checker, assistant schedule analyst, and schedule analyst. One of his long-term assignments was re-vamping and redesigning timetables used by bus patrons.

Two members of West's family also are System employees. His father, Wayne West, is with Maintenance at Seminary Division; his sister, Carol Mori, is with PBX Information.
Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting October 25, the Board of Directors:
- Authorized General Manager to enter into agreement with Hewlett-Packard for purchase and installation of a general purpose computer, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.

* * *

At a regular meeting November 8, the Board of Directors:
- Authorized General Manager to execute contract with UMTA relative to a capital improvements grant in the amount of $13,751,675, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for the purchase and installation of one portable and five stationary air compressors, on motion of Director Berk.

Two retired transit employees meet deaths

Deaths of two retirees have been reported within recent weeks.

John E. Hector, 95, died October 23 in Half Moon Bay, where he made his home. He had been with Key System for 37 years when he retired in 1948. At the time of retirement, he was an operator on the Park Boulevard Streetcar line. Before coming west, he had worked for Chautauqua Traction Co., which operated electric street railways in the state of New York.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. E. G. Bergren and Mrs. B. K. McCorkle.

Clarence H. Van Velsor, 53, who retired in June, 1978, died October 26 in Sacramento. At the time of retirement, he had been employed by the District for nine years and was assigned to Maintenance at Newark Division.

Funeral services and burial were in Auburn, where Van Velsor made his home. He is survived by his widow, LaVivionne.