Drivers win Board commendation
Our
'Stockholders' Write

Your service is always good, but I feel impelled to commend your driver, James A. Hall, for especial courtesy. Recently, I witnessed some very kind and thoughtful acts by this young man. A very tottery and uncertain old man got on, and (the driver) did not start the bus until this man was safely seated. This was followed by a very pregnant woman with a large child over her shoulder. She did not know where to transfer, etc., and he took good care of her. All was done very gently and kindly, with no fanfare. Most of your drivers are courteous and patient, I must say, but he stood out.

While we are on the subject, your women drivers are especially smooth and good. They never rush up to a stop at top speed and then slam on the brakes, making "oldies" like myself stagger around. Catherine M. Gurnz
Piedmont

Please consider locating a bus stop on Island Drive across from Bridgeway, going from Bay Farm Isle toward Alameda proper. There is now a school off Bridgeway, but the two closest bus stops are not very close, especially for the children. One bus stop is at the Bay Farm Recreational Center, and the other is at Country Club Road near the fire station. I get off with my kindergartner at the stop in front of the Bay Farm Recreational Center only because it is best at this time.

F. Hendren
Bay Farm, Alameda

(Ed. Note: Our Transportation Department has reviewed your suggestion and determined that a bus stop on Island Drive at Bridgeway is feasible. We are awaiting go-ahead from the City of Alameda.)

I have just completed the most pleasant ride I have ever had on the bus. The young woman who was driving should be commended for effectively maintaining pleasant conditions on her bus. At one point there were smokers on her bus with whom she dealt courteously, yet firmly. This type of action by your drivers should be firmly endorsed by AC management.

John Clarke
Oakland

I should like to express my appreciation of the special service given by drivers of AC buses to those using canes. They take special care to drive close to the curb, making exit and entrance to the bus easy.

Many thanks.

A 'Stockholder' Berkeley

One afternoon I was riding the bus on East 14th Street toward downtown Oakland. The young woman driver asked a young man to turn down his tape deck. He refused. A few blocks later, she asked him again, pointing out the sign in the bus (radio off), and again he refused. This time he got very abusive and verbally harassed her and insulted her for nearly 20 blocks. Everyone on the bus was very nervous, and I felt pretty embarrassed but unable to do anything. It seemed that the man was extremely aggressive, and I think everyone felt he could explode at any time.

This letter is to thank the woman for her courage in the face of hostility.

T. Scott Craig
Seattle, WA.

Fare hikes would ease financial pinch

AC Transit Directors have reaffirmed their position on fares, voting at their May 15 meeting to increase local adult fares to 50 cents per ride and the minimum transbay fare to $1. Present adult fares are 35 cents local, 35 to 60 cents express, and 75 cents to $1.25 transbay.

However, the Board scheduled a June 18 public hearing before final action is taken.

At that hearing, Directors also will decide whether to leave discount fares for senior citizens and certified handicapped riders at the present 10 cents for local rides or increase this special fare to 15 cents.

The proposed fare adjustment is a key element in a financial package which would enable AC Transit to meet spiraling operating costs in an era when other sources of operating assistance are either rapidly diminishing or are severely threatened.

The new fare formula under consideration would generate up to $7 million in additional revenues, according to General Manager Robert E. Nisbet. These additional monies would be applied against an anticipated deficit in the coming fiscal year, and even greater projected deficits in the years to come.

According to Nisbet, the new fare structure, if adopted after the public hearing, could go into effect as early as July 1st.

Among other matters to be discussed at the June 18 forum is a proposal to restructure transbay and express bus fare zones in southern Alameda County, reducing the number from four to three. Under such a plan, Zone 1 would extend from central Oakland as far south as 73rd Ave., Zone 2 South would continue from 73rd Ave. to A St. in Hayward, with Zone 3 South covering the area south of central Hayward.

Adult transbay cash fares for the three proposed zones would be $1 for one-zone trips, $1.25 for two-zone rides and $1.50 for three-zone trips. Intercity express service would cost 50 cents for one-zone rides, 75 cents for two-zone and $1 for three-zone trips.

As proposed, reduced fares for youth, senior citizens and certified handicapped riders could increase to 40, 50 and 60 cents for transbay rides.

The fare proposal takes into account pressures on regular bus riders by providing for 10 to 15 percent discounts on local and transbay Monthly Passes. Discounts of five percent could be allowed for 20-ride convenience ticket books.

Board takes action

System names
Gage to post
In management

Nat Gage
Nathaniel A. "Nat" Gage has been appointed Executive Assistant for Financial Management.

Gage previously served nearly 10 years with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, where he attained the position of deputy executive director.

He served for 35 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel.
Site in East Oakland
To become locale for Central maintenance

AC Transit buses soon may be rolling in and out of the present General Motors Parts Facility in East Oakland as a result of action taken by the Board of Directors at a May 15 meeting.

The Board directed General Manager Robert E. Nisbet to negotiate a contract for the purchase of about one-third of the huge site, to become the location for a central maintenance facility. Here, heavy maintenance work would be performed on vehicles comprising the District's 814 bus fleet. This work currently is performed in the crowded operating facility in Emeryville.

This move toward an expanded maintenance and stores facility is an element of the District's Five Year Plan, aimed at meeting transit riders' needs in the years to come.

The East Oakland site would also serve to house the District's Purchasing and stores department.

The former GM facility was selected after a year-long study of potential locations throughout the urban East Bay, according to Nisbet.

Land preparation grooms Site for Concord base

SITE PREPARATION — Rough grading and soil removal were completed this month at the site of AC Transit's future operating facility at Highway 4 and Port Chicago Highway in Central Contra Costa County. Moving the project forward another step was the Board's approval of a contract with Kaiser Engineers, which will provide project administration services for the Concord facility as part of the District's overall facilities improvement program.

THE COVER — The proceedings of the May 28 Board of Directors meeting included a ceremony honoring AC Transit's two drivers who have reached the 30-year mark in the District's safe-driving program. The two — Robert L. Copes (left) and John Zorman (middle) — were presented for the Board's commendation by President William E. Berk (right). Copes became the first to reach the 30-year mark in February, 1960, just weeks before John Zorman achieved this unusual record. The pair's cumulative statistics indicate that they have carried some 4.7 million bus riders more than 2.1 million miles during 68 years as drivers.

MTC honors two veteran AC Transit employees

IN THE SPOTLIGHT — The Metropolitan Transportation Commission's annual awards ceremony, held May 28 at BART/Lake Merritt, recognized AC Transit employee Robert L. Copes (right, with MTC Chairman James E. Seif) and Zada Malinak, soon-to-retire as Customer Information Supervisor after 34 years of service. Copes' certificate honored his status as the System's first driver to reach the 30-year safe-driving mark. Mrs. Malinak received the MTC Special Transit Employee Award, in absentia, for services which included aiding many other transit operations in setting up transit information functions.

Sign-ups draw lively crowd of drivers, families

CHOICES — Superintendent Tom Swanson, Emeryville (head of table, right) was in charge of this month's System-wide driver signup.

MEETING AND GREETING — When drivers from all divisions gather to vie, by seniority, for favored bus runs, it sometimes seems to resemble the reunion of a very large family. Shown here are some of the family members who took part in the latest signup.

Patrons can reach Parks this summer

Special AC Transit service to East Bay Regional Parks will provide increased summer recreational opportunities beginning Sunday, June 15. This will include:

- Hourly service to Tilden Regional Park from BART/Berkeley daily from about 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Hourly service to Roberts Redwood Regional Park each day from about 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. from BART/Fruitvale.
- Lake Chabot Park service from about 6:30 a.m. daily via an extension of Line 91-Hayward-Castro Valley and providing direct connections between BART/Hayward and the park.
- Don Castro Park riders may use Line 95-Hayward-Kelly weekdays from BART/Hayward to a point near a park entrance, while weekenders will enjoy direct service into the park.
- Point Pinole Park will be accessible via an extension of Line 78-El Cerrito-Richmond on weekdays and Saturdays.
PROMOTIONS: Employees move up the ladder

Legal

In a recent appointment, the Board of Directors named Richard Meier Attorney for the District. Meier, who previously served as Chief Trial Attorney, joined AC Transit in 1971.

Marketing

Sharon Rodriguez has moved up to the position of Marketing Supervisor, while, in PBX Information, Cynthia Dorsey, Janice Manuel, and Carol Mori have assumed the duties of Assistant Customer Information Supervisor.

Personnel

Assuming greater responsibilities in the Personnel Department are Jim Albright, Senior Personnel Analyst; Wilma Gaines, Personnel Supervisor; and Averne Bradshaw, who joins the ranks of Personnel Analysts which also includes previous appointees Curtis Goodenough, Wayne Onizuka, Roy Owens, and Donna Pate.

Training

Taking up new duties as Training Instructor are Daniele Heath, Lois Williams, James Harden, and Revert Thornton.

Transportation

G.L. "Mo" Gross, who began her transit career 37 years ago, has become AC Transit's first female superintendent. In assuming responsibility for transportation operations at Seminary Division, she crowns a career which began in 1942 when she joined Key System as a streetcar operator.

More employee promotions

(Continued from page 6)

Assuming new duties as Transportation Supervisor are the following: Aldin Blick, Willie Prather, Jr., Stanley Williams, Jr., Wilson Williams, Loretta Brown, Linda Crowe, Charles Dunn, David Elsasser, Wardell Miles, Javery Morrison, Carolyn Phillips, Roosevelt Wilkerson, Jesus Pangelinan, Walter Cranshaw, Edgar Landry, Maurice McCarthy, Michael Corral, Glenn Purdy, Compton Gault, Jr., and Paul DeMarco.

In other Transportation Department advancements, Sammy Carter was named Chief Clerk, Richmond Division; and Peggy Chambers has taken up new duties as Chief Dispatcher, Newark Division.

RIDER UP-DATE — Prepared to answer questions from Fremont-Newark patrons on new fixed-route service which goes into effect June 15 are Information Operators Joy Graner (left) and Florence Braneon. They display the new route maps, a project of the Marketing Department, which are being widely distributed within the service area and will also be available from drivers. The maps feature how-to-use information, including a section of photos of key locations and which lines to use to get there.

Schedules change in Eastern Contra Costa

Routes and time schedules of local Tri Delta Transit bus lines 380 and 381 have been adjusted slightly to better serve bus riders in downtown Antioch.

Both bus lines are being rerouted to extend service to 2nd St., providing riders better access to downtown destinations including the Seniors Center at 3rd and "F" streets.

Eastbound Line 380 and 381 buses now operate via "G" St. to 2nd St. (instead of 4th St.), returning via "F" St. to the regular route. In the westbound directions, both bus lines will operate via "E" St. to 2nd St., returning via "F" St. to the regular route.

Informational materials depicting the route changes and listing the accompanying schedule time adjustments are available from drivers.
Leisure life begins for three

When Walter Bergman moved from Honolulu to the mainland in 1957, leaving his native Hawaii and a job at Standard Oil, he was a ready candidate for the bus driver job that he learned about through a newspaper ad. Starting with Key System in 1958, he completed 22 years as a driver before leaving Seminary Division for retirement. Looking back, he says he especially enjoyed driving on Line 63 in Alameda.

Feeling somewhat restless with unaccustomed leisure and missing some of the “very nice people” that he came into contact with as a driver, Bergman says he may yet decide to look for a post-retirement job. Meanwhile, he’s at leisure in East Oakland, where he and wife Nola have had a home for many years. But he also enjoys occasional visits to Nevada. The LeFaiwres are the parents of a son, Michael.

Armchair traveler

Retiring from Seminary Division after 34 years as a driver, Clifford ("Cliff") Slocum looks back on a span of employment which began when he rather casually wandered into a Key System employment office in downtown Oakland which happened to be displaying an "Operators Wanted" sign. This was in late 1945, soon after his discharge from the Army after 3½ years of varied service ranging from coast artillery duty in Alaska and the Aleutians to domestic duty with the infantry and signal corps.

As a driver, Slocum served on a number of lines in a number of areas, explaining that he "wanted a little variety." He started out with Emeryville Division, but began his long association with Seminary Division at the time it opened in 1947. Describing himself as an avid "armchair traveler" with interests in both history and geography, Slocum has hopes of doing some post-retirement travel. His base of operations for retirement, however, will continue to be the home in Castro Valley where he and wife Marion have lived since 1955.

The Slocums have three children — Thomas, Susan, and Dave — and three grandchildren — Steve, Gracie April, and Terry.

Civilian career

After Army infantry service which included landing in France with the second wave of D-Day troops, William LeFaiivre started a civilian career which must have seemed very peaceful in comparison. He joined Key System in 1946 as a bus driver, completing 33 years before retiring from Seminary Division.

Having spent much of his Army service overseas (including three Christmases), LeFaiivre chose to settle down in civilian life; thus, he and wife Mary Joanne have lived in the same home in San Leandro for more than 30 years. In retirement, LeFaiivre is doing a bit of traveling, including trips to Oregon and Arizona. He’s also spending some productive time in a vegetable garden which, in previous years, has provided such abundance that some of the produce had to be plowed under.

The LeFaiwres are the parents of a son, Michael.
At an adjourned regular meeting April 23, the Board of Directors:
• Referred to management for evaluation and recommendation all bids for furnishing automotive brake drum lathe and accessories, on motion of Director Rinehart.
• Approved award of contract to low bidders for joint procurement, with Regional Transit Association, of brake drums, on motion of Director Fajans.

At an adjourned regular meeting May 15, the Board of Directors:
• Referred to management for evaluation and recommendation all bids for furnishing office machines and equipment, on motion of Director Holmes.
• Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for purchase of drivers' lightweight uniform trousers and slacks, on motion of Director McDonnell.
• Awarded contract to Smith and Tyler for furnishing automatic brake drum lathe and accessories and approved lending the used surplus brake drum lathe to Hayward Vocational School for use as training tool, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
• Authorized sale of five surplus 2100-series buses to highest bidder or bidders, with no required minimum, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
• Authorized General Manager to conclude negotiations for purchase of automotive brake drum lathe and accessories, on motion of Director Rinehart.

Authorized formation of a committee of the Board to meet with representatives of Central Contra Costa Transit Authority in connection with proposed service contract, on motion of Director Rinehart.
• Authorized General Manager to negotiate contract with Kaiser Engineers for architectural and engineering services in connection with the District's facilities improvement program, on motion of Director Rinehart.

(Continued on page 4)