Anniversary: Old and new receive salutes
I want to take this opportunity to praise one of your drivers with whom I had the distinct pleasure to ride during the two days that I spent awaiting a flight to the east coast from Alameda Naval Air Station.

Purely by chance I took one of your buses into town from the NAS, and the driver was Mr. A.H. Weir. Not only did he offer me every consideration as an out-of-town visitor when I asked questions about what I might want to see in Oakland (it was the first time I had ever spent time in your fair city), but he did the same with all passengers.

He waited patiently for elderly folks to get on or off his vehicle. He offered information about transfer points; he recognized daily riders and greeted them most courteously.

I have ridden the Metro Transit System in D.C./Maryland for about 20 years. In all of my years of local commuting, I never have met the likes of Mr. Weir. He is an asset to your transit system and should be a model for which all professional drivers in your system should aspire.

Captain Richard J. Meyer
USNR

* * *

Yesterday I left my purse on the 33 bus. I was alarmed to realize I had left my purse on the bus. I telephoned AC Transit. We were told to wait for the bus on the way back. We did. The driver, R.B. Malone, handed me my purse.

I asked if I could give him some money. He said, "No." This letter is to show my appreciation.

Ethel Mengel
Berkeley

The 20th anniversary celebration which began October 1 came to a festive conclusion at the October 15 Board of Directors meeting when the winners of the "Thank You" sweepstakes were drawn from among approximately 7,500 entries. First prize — the use (with up to 44 friends) of "a bus for a day" — went to Vicky Slaymaker of Alameda. A year's worth of free Monthly Passes went to 20 additional entrants, while 200 others won free November, 1980, Passes.
First of 175 new buses arrive

"PEOPLE LIFT" — Berkeley resident Hale Takeshita (left) appeared pleased with the performance of the elevator-type lift installed on the new Flyer bus. One hand at this first public demonstration of the device were (left to right) General Manager Robert E. Nisbet and District Directors Ray Rinehart, Roy Nakadegawa and William E. Berk. All 175 new Flyers feature the "People-Lift" for wheelchair users and people using walkers and crutches.

Melodic signature will Announce shuttle buses

Next month's addition to downtown Oakland bus service will be a singular stand-out — coaches which will be pleasant to the ear as well as the eye.

The new "Downtown Shuttle" will sport colorful murals reflecting a musical theme, and each bus will have a muted musical signature — pleasant walking music that will signal its approach.

Once in operation (after November 24), shuttle buses will run at 10-minute intervals midday via Broadway, First St., the one-way couplet of Oak/Madison streets, and 20th St., linking commercial and residential areas with city and county offices, BART stations, financial institutions around Kaiser center, and recreational facilities and establishments on the Embarcadero and at Lake Merritt.

30

APTA elects McDonnell

AC Transit Director John L. "Jack" McDonnell was elected to a second term as Chairman of the American Public Transit Association (APTA) at its annual convention in San Diego on October 4. APTA is the 2,000-member association representing public transit operations throughout the United States and Canada.

A member of AC Transit's policymaking Board since its formation in 1956, McDonnell represents Ward III, which includes Alameda, Piedmont, and parts of Oakland.

Newark gets top safety tally

Three divisions met September's safe driving goal, with Newark Division drivers taking the top spot with their tally of 39,772 miles per chargeable accident.

Thirty-third driver marks 25-year safety milestone.

CAKE MARKS MILESTONE — AC Transit's 33rd recipient of the 25-year Safe Driving Award — George Phillips — was honored for his accomplishment September 30 at Seminary Division. Helping him with the cake-cutting was wife Georgia. Phillips qualified as an operator in 1951 at Emeryville Division. He has been at Seminary Division since 1956. The Phillips family includes three children and four grandchildren.

Smile, riders, you May soon be seen Via candid cameras

As one step toward discouraging misbehavior and vandalism on District buses, 60 coaches will soon be equipped with surveillance cameras similar to those used in banks and retail stores.

Cost of cameras, installation, film and processing will be covered by an allocation from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the one-year security demonstration project. Other regional transit organizations plan to test-use similar surveillance installations.

Buses selected for camera installations will be those which operate over AC Transit routes where onboard incidents are most likely to occur. Other California transit operators which have reported very favorable results from the use of such surveillance systems include San Diego Transit Corporation and Fresno Municipal Transit.

Research and Planning, Finance add new staff members

WELCOME ABOARD — Four new administrative staff members have assumed duties in General Office. In the left photo three planners center over a Central Contra Costa service map in Research & Planning. They are (left to right) Eric Harris, Anita Winkler and David Yazhari. Below, Stella Lassey tackles some of the detail work which characterizes her job as a grant accountant in Finance.
FOCUS: Transit People and Projects

Governor notes top safety record

Newark Division employees celebrated a five-year all-time safety record on October 23, high-lighted by cable congratulations from California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

The division recorded 60 consecutive months of beating the system-wide safe driving goal of 13,250 miles per chargeable accident. Their average: nearly 50,000 miles per mishap.

Monthly Pass patrons surveyed
To aid inter-system planning

Users of the local $18 East Bay Monthly Pass and of the three Transbay Monthly Passes ($36, central zone; $45, Zone 2; $54, Zone 3) were invited this month to participate in a survey to compile data on the kinds of trips Pass-users make and the times of day and week that Passes are used. This statistical information will be used by planners at AC Transit, San Francisco’s MUNI, and Metropolitan Transportation Commission to design improvements in existing Pass programs and to facilitate future inter-system transfers.

Grant hearing scheduled

The public is invited to a November 12, 4 p.m., hearing on two AC Transit capital improvement applications. One application to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration is for $26,435,395 to purchase buses and support equipment for use in the urban East Bay; the second application is for $1,660,150 to purchase buses and equipment to use in southern Alameda County.

Three retirees die who had combined transit service of 100 years

Robert J. Ballard, 64, who retired in 1976 as an employment supervisor in Personnel, died September 14 at his home in Hayward. His transit service spanned nearly 36 years. Ballard is survived by his widow, Marjorie; daughters Madrien, Louise, Lori and Nancy; and sons Chester and Jerry.

Chester MacArtney, 83, who was a Mechanic A at the time of his retirement in 1962, died September 16 while hospitalized in Hayward. His lifestyle includes modest intake of healthy foods, neither smoking nor drinking (though he doesn't consider total abstinence necessary, as long as such habits aren't indulged to excess), and a carefully-executed program of body building and conditioning. He's worked 20 years at the healthy habits that led to this statewide recognition.

Lori and Nancy; and sons Chester and Jerry.

Board Actions

(Continued from back page)

- Authorized General Manager to seek bids for a two-year demonstration project of a computerized run cutting and scheduling system, on motion of Director Fajans.

- Authorized General Manager to enter into agreement with Wilbur Smith & Associates to conduct an on-board survey in District 2, on motion of Director Fajans.
Actions of the Board

At a regular meeting September 10, the Board of Directors:

• Authorized travel of one representative to the First National Urban Mass Transportation Management Seminar in Human Resources Development at the University of Pennsylvania, held December 1-12, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

• Authorized General Manager to participate in joint procurement, with Regional Transit Association, of automotive filters, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

At an adjourned regular meeting September 24, the Board of Directors:

• Rejected all bids received for joint procurement, with Regional Transit Association, of automotive shock absorbers, on motion of Director Rinehart.

• Awarded contract to Duncan Industries for furnishing fare collection equipment, subject to reduction of bid price by a specified amount; and authorized General Manager to issue change order for purchase of additional six vaults, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

• Adopted resolution authorizing filing of application with the Department of Transportation for a capital assistance grant and scheduled a November 12 public hearing in connection with the application, on motion of Director Fajans.

• Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for retrofitting 36 buses with wheelchair lifts, subject to UMTA approval of specifications and bidding documents; and adopted resolution authorizing filing of application with Department of Transportation for an amendment related to the project, on motions of Director Fajans.

• Adopted resolution authorizing filing of application with Department of Transportation for a capital improvement grant and scheduled a November 12 public hearing on the matter, to be held jointly with FAU capital funding hearing, on motions of Director Fajans.

(Continued on page 6)