

Vol. 16 No. 4

October 1973

# Transit-Times



**The smallest and  
Largest in bus fleet**

*Our  
'Stockholders'  
Write*



I called AC Transit Information in some confusion, needing to know how to get from one spot in Alameda to one spot in Richmond.

Mrs. Doris Goelz took my call.

She answered my question in a most cheerful and efficient manner and was helpful and friendly far above and far beyond her normal call of duty.

Such thoughtful treatment . . . is delightedly welcome.

Janet Michaelson  
Alameda

• • •

I am writing to ask you to have a San Francisco bus stop put up at 61st and Adeline streets. My sister has to walk . . . about five or six blocks.

Miss Stella Anderson  
Oakland

*(The matter was investigated, with the result bus stop signs for both directions were installed at the intersection. —Ed.)*

• • •

My husband and I were visiting Richmond (and) we didn't know our way around the city.

The young driver, *Richard Le Boeuf*, was so very kind to us that we felt right at home and at ease.

He had something pleasant to say to everyone, young and old, black, white and Oriental.

When someone handed him the wrong transfer he told them in such a way that they didn't become angry or embarrassed but paid the fare.

Mr. Le Boeuf helped a blind man to his bus stop. He was so patient with the elderly, especially one old lady who (told

us) "He is the best driver on our route."

You should feel very proud to have such an employee in your service.

This young driver made the ride extremely pleasant for us.

Mrs. James Wallace  
Napa

• • •

Just a line to let you know how very helpful and polite your driver *George Kirk* was. I recently moved here from New York and know little or nothing about the system here.

Mr. Kirk was very patient and saw to it that I transferred to the right bus at the right place; otherwise I fear I should have lost my way.

I am very grateful to him and AC Transit for making "getting around" so simple and pleasant.

Barbara Janner  
Oakland

• • •

I have had occasion to ride with many drivers, but I have never met a more courteous, dependable and polite driver than *Gabriel Davis*.

Jimmy Moniz  
San Leandro

• • •

During a week-long stay in Oakland I had occasion to use your buses several times.

I was very impressed with the courtesy and help all your drivers gave me. It was so nice to find drivers who would help me make transfers, who would hand out timetables and just be generally pleasant.

Allen W. Kratz  
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

## District will need 42 new buses next year To keep up with service requirements

AC Transit projects it will need 42 more buses to keep up with service requirements during the next fiscal year, and another 78 new coaches by late 1975.

Authorization to go out to bid for the 42 buses was given by the Board of Directors this month. Delivery is expected in about ten months.

Purchase of equipment is being funded under a \$7,670,000 grant made by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration in January, 1972. The grant covers new buses and improved facilities, including 50 bus shelters, during a four year period.

The new coaches will be 35 feet long, 96 inches wide and will carry 42 seated passengers, under a District policy of providing extra leg room for riders. The buses ordinarily seat 45 people.

The buses will be equipped with Environmental Improvement Packages

(EIP), which lessen the already minimal amount of pollution attributed to diesel-powered coaches. The property's entire modern fleet meets California's 1973 emission control standards.

Additional acoustical material will be specified to help quiet both interior and exterior noise.

Delivery of the new buses will bring the modern fleet count to approximately 650 buses.

Seats in the new buses will be fabric covered and will be mounted on single pedestals, offering additional leg room and visual spaciousness.

## Transbay bus commuting Shows dramatic increase

Transbay commuting by bus has jumped 114 percent since AC Transit went into business 13 years ago, according to a study made by the University of California's Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering.

During the same period, use of cars for transbay commuting increased 35 percent.

A traffic count on buses and autos was made during a recent 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. commute period when 512 buses crossed the span, carrying 19,109 passengers. During the same time slot, 17,373 cars traveled the bridge with 25,097 passengers, a load factor of 1.44 persons per automobile.

AC Transit riders who commuted by bus between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. represented a 7.4 percent increase over figures reported one year ago.

Car passengers using the bridge increased 1.6 percent during the same 12 month period.

Buses are carrying 51.4 percent of the people crossing the Bay Bridge between 7:30 and 8 a.m. The figures include riders carried by AC Transit and Greyhound.

## Raider football service Sets all-time record

AC Transit's football service reached record proportions recently when 337 buses were rolled out to carry nearly 24,000 fans to a game at Memorial Coliseum on the University of California Berkeley campus.

The game, between the Miami Dolphins and the Oakland Raiders, drew 74,000 spectators with nearly a third of that number riding football buses to reach the stadium.

It was the biggest special bus movement in the District's history, with the bus count raised to 375 to take happy Raider rooters away from the game. Some of the coaches returned for a second trip.

A 100 percent passenger safety record was maintained to and from the game, with only one minor stall blemishing an otherwise perfect record of equipment performance.

## Driver watches package Then weds its owner

THEY MET ON A BUS—Driver Manley Morgan and Gail Johnson are Mr. and Mrs. Morgan now. Gail left a package on Manley's bus last year and that brief encounter led to marriage earlier this month.



Manley Morgan tried to get the young lady's attention to tell her not to leave her package on his bus since he was just about to leave on another run, but she had hurried to buy an ice cream cone at a store near the end of the "B" line in Oakland.

It was shortly after Christmas last year and Morgan decided that the package probably was a Christmas present.

He didn't know her name and he hadn't seen her on the line before so he decided to wait until she returned a minute later with her cone.

When she came back he learned her name was Gail Johnson and that she was visiting an aunt in Oakland.

Since she was the only passenger on the end of the line, they struck up a conversation. They learned they shared the same birthday, January 29th, and Morgan discovered he liked the bouncy, articu-

## Veteran employees begin Retirement on Nov. 1

Two veteran AC Transit employees, driver *Ernest Castillo* and mechanic *Hilton Gartman*, officially begin their retirement on November 1.

Castillo, 65, began his career in East Bay transit May 7, 1951, while Gartman, 56, dates his employment from December 29, 1952.

**THE COVER**—The biggest bus and the smallest bus in the fleet share parking space at Emeryville Division after "the bug" makes a trial run. The small bus is 29 feet, two inches and will seat 16 passengers. The articulated Freeway Train spans 60 feet and seats 77.

late Gail.

The next time he saw her on his bus, he decided to ask her for a date.

She accepted and that first date led to another and another.

Morgan decided a permanent match would be fine and Gail agreed. He proposed, she said "Yes," and the couple was married October 7 in Carmel.

The new Mr. and Mrs. Manley Morgan are living in his old apartment in Oakland.

## Richmond drivers to aid New "Radio Alert" plan

AC Transit drivers will work with the City of Richmond Police Department in a new Radio Alert program, offering around-the-clock assistance in reporting community problems.

Drivers on the road use the two-way radio system to notify district Central Dispatch of suspicious acts or incidents requiring help. Central Dispatch, in turn, passes the alert along to police or fire departments involved.

Because of this community involvement, a number of incidents have been brought to the attention of authorities, permitting them to stop illegal acts or answer distress calls without delay.

The Richmond program started with cooperation from AC Transit, but will be expanded to include other radio-equipped vehicles.

More than half of all calls received by the Oakland Police Department through their Radio Alert program originate with AC Transit drivers operating on regular runs throughout East Bay cities.



## "Primo" is Working his way Through college

MECHANIC—Primo Villarreal studies at home in his effort to earn his college diploma.

At the age of 30, Primitivo "Primo" Villarreal Jr. of Alameda is a determined man. He's determined to earn a college degree and, at the rate he's progressing, no one should doubt he will make it.

Currently a Mechanic "C" at AC Transit's Emeryville Division and a student at College of Alameda with a 2.85 grade point average (a straight "B" would be 3.0), Primo expects to win his Associate of Arts degree by June, 1974.

After that, he plans to apply for admission to the University of California, Berkeley, although he will attend either San Francisco or Hayward state universities if Berkeley is too crowded.

Primo is well on his way toward his goal, having finished first in California and fourth in the nation in a skill test as a diesel engine mechanic.

As an entrant in the Vocational-Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) contest, Villarreal topped all others in California in the oral exams and in a time-test to find a "bug" in a diesel engine.

Following his first place finish, he went on to Tulsa, Oklahoma, in mid-July, representing California in the national contest, where he finished a highly respectable fourth.

Born in San Antonio, the oldest of eight children, "Primo" grew up in that South Texas city and was graduated from San Antonio High School in 1962.

**COLLEGE STUDENT** — Primo Villarreal, who attends school daytimes in his quest for a college degree, works full-time as a maintenance employee on evening shifts Tuesdays through Saturdays.

He married his wife, Gloria, and joined the Navy, all in that same year. He served four years in the Navy as an electrician and was discharged in 1966.

The Villarreals came to California in 1969 and Primo went to work for AC Transit as a mechanic in August of that year.

Primo works at the District's Emeryville Division yard on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift, Tuesdays through Saturdays, while attending college from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

"My wife thought I was joking at first when I told her I wanted to go to college and earn a degree in diesel engine mechanics," Villarreal admits now, "and she was a bit pessimistic in the beginning, but she's changed her mind and now she's my biggest booster."

While Primo is working his way through college, Mrs. Villarreal helps ease the pressure by making sure that David, 8, and Lucinda, 2, give him the peace and quiet he needs when studying at home.

Though a final decision still is a few years off, Primo says he hopes to stay with AC Transit after he earns his bachelor's degree.





**READY FOR SURGERY**—With seats removed and roof and floor paneling already cut away, bus No. 708 awaits the next move—removal of a section between front wheels and rear door. At this point, the bus still is 35 feet long.

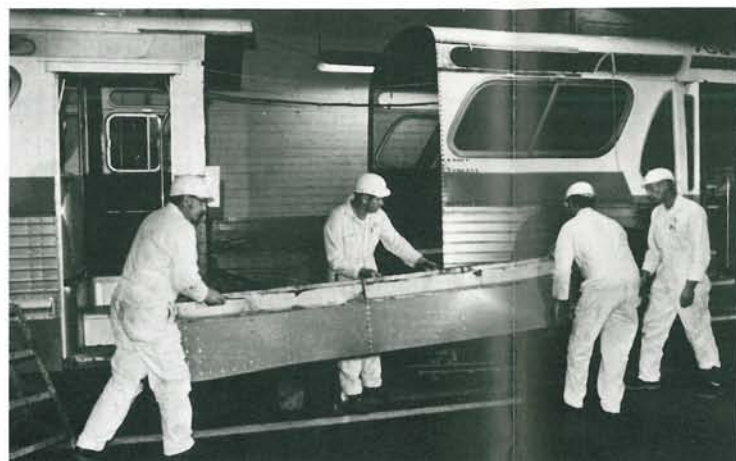


**RIVETS OUT**—Worker pulls last rivets to allow outside panel to be removed.

## AC Transit shortens Bus for possible use in Dial-a-Ride operation



**EASY DOES IT**—Window frame section is lifted out as dismantling continues.



**UNSKIRTED**—Final piece of paneling is removed, exposing the section taken out to tailor the bus for specialized neighborhood service. If the conversion is successful, AC Transit will consider cutting down another 12 buses for the door-to-door project.



**CUT-AWAY**—The two sections of the bus now are ready to be rejoined. When the connection is completed, the interior will be refurbished with floor and ceiling carpeting and wood-grained melamine paneling.

**COMING TOGETHER**—The difficulty of the “operation” is seen in this photo as the two sections are carefully moved toward each other.

**TIGHT FIT**—The sections now have been joined but work to make the connection complete still has to be done, including rewiring of electric lines and other control systems. Later, 16 seats will be installed, providing 21 inches of seating space per passenger. Seats across back will be even wider.

**SURGERY COMPLETE**—Back together again but more than five feet shorter, the bus is ready for final connections and repainting. The bus still has the same power plant, automatic heating and ventilation system, and the complete air ride originally in the bus but unavailable in smaller coaches.



# NEW EMPLOYEES

AC Transit welcomed these new workers in July, August and September



Lee Ary  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Michael Bille  
Transportation  
Richmond



Dennis Birdsong  
Transportation  
Seminary



Preston Chenault  
Transportation  
Emeryville



John Cook  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Aianza Cribbs  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Antonio Cruz  
Transportation  
Emeryville



James Currie  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Paul DeMarco  
Transportation  
Seminary



Vernon Faver  
Transportation  
Richmond



Steven Foster  
Transportation  
Richmond



James Fowler  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Joseph Garcia  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Billy Green  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Rita Hampton  
PBX-Information  
Emeryville



Michael Hearing  
Transportation  
Seminary



Danny Hitchcock  
Transportation  
Seminary



Irwin Huebsch  
Transportation  
Seminary



James Huppert  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Lawrence Jackson  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Donald Jamison  
Maintenance  
Seminary



George Jennings  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Joseph Johnson  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Robert Jones  
Transportation  
Richmond



Ronald Kelly  
Transportation  
Richmond



Bradley Lucero  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Ronald Lumley  
Treasury  
General Office



Esque Martin  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Paul Mason  
Transportation  
Emeryville



W. McGuinness  
Transportation  
Seminary



Donald Militello  
Transportation  
Seminary



John Morrill  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Steven Nessler  
Transportation  
Seminary



Dayle Nunes  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Harold Overbay  
Transportation  
Emeryville



James Owens  
Transportation  
Richmond



Theodore Pate  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Jack Patterson  
Transportation  
Seminary



Gerald Pickett  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Luis Pizano  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Leon Pryor  
Transportation  
Seminary

# NEW EMPLOYEES

AC Transit also welcomed these new workers in July, August and September



Jerry Purvis  
Transportation  
Seminary



Richard Roberts  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Willie Salmond  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Ormond Seavey  
Stores  
Emeryville



E. Sgouros  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Ernest Shilah  
Transportation  
Seminary



Larry Smith  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Douglas Soranno  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Timothy Sowell  
Transportation  
Seminary



Charles Stafford  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Russell Stever  
Transportation  
Emeryville



James Stewart  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Colby Swanson  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Sebastian Tine  
Maintenance  
Seminary



Richard Van Dine  
Transportation  
Emeryville



John Wardy  
Maintenance  
Emeryville



Ben Williamson  
Transportation  
Emeryville



Larry Wright  
Transportation  
Seminary

## Transbay figures rise sharply in August

Transbay revenue and patronage rose sharply during August, the sixth month in a row this has occurred, and all figures showed increases when compared to August, 1972.

Total passenger revenue for August was \$1,313,600, up \$63,512 or 5.1 percent above the \$1,250,088 collected during August, 1972. East Bay revenue was \$641,589, up \$3,096 or 0.5 percent above the \$638,493 dropped into fare boxes a year ago. Transbay revenue of \$672,011 was up \$60,416 or 9.9 percent above the \$611,595 collected last year.

Commute book sales totaled \$304,745, up \$21,087 from sales of \$283,658 during the same month a year ago—an increase of 7.4 percent.

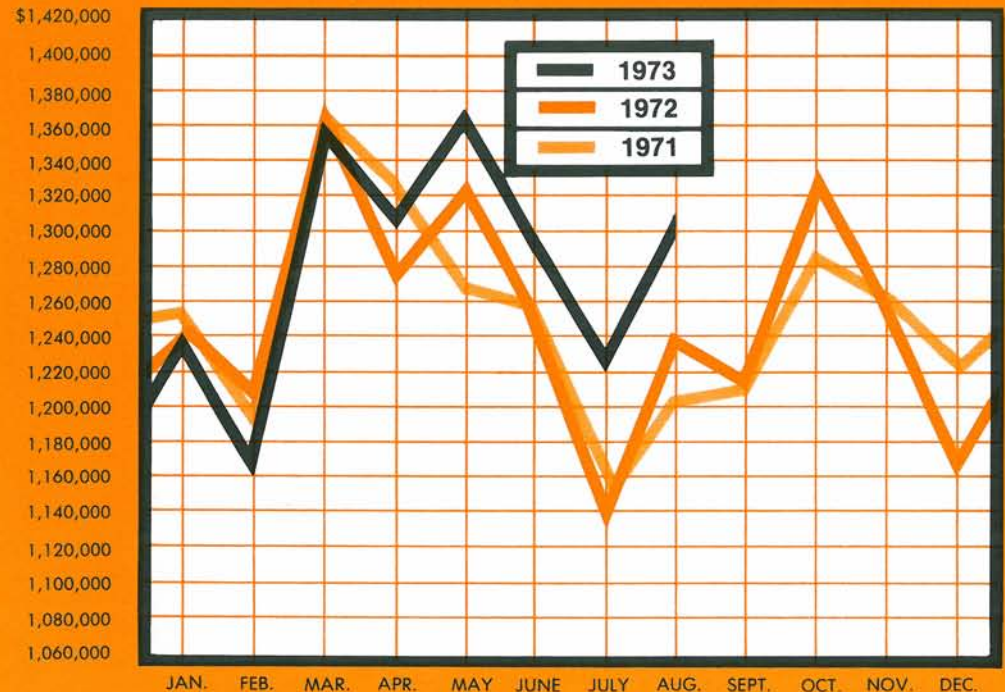
AC Transit buses carried 4,104,011 passengers during August, up 182,444 or 4.7 percent above the 3,921,567 carried during the month of August, 1972. East Bay buses carried 2,800,047 riders, up 61,179 or 2.2 percent above the 2,738,868 who rode during August, 1972. On transbay lines, patronage for the month totaled 1,303,964, up 121,265 or 10.3 percent above the August, 1972, figure of 1,182,699.

Nationally, the transit industry indicated a decrease in revenue passengers of 0.31 percent.

Operating costs during August were \$2,480,193, up \$359,654 or 17.0 percent above year-ago expenses of \$2,120,539. The system operated 2,247,812 miles of service during August, an increase of 115,701 miles or 5.4 percent above the August, 1972, mileage of 2,132,111.

Total income of \$2,649,461 left a deficit of \$49,391 in meeting full bond debt requirements and operating costs.

3 year passenger revenue comparison





## Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting September 26, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized special service to Coliseum for American League play-off games, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to purchase utility truck and to sell old dump truck via sealed bid, on motion of Director Copeland.
- Authorized execution of Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with Metropolitan Transportation Commission for transit needs study in El Sobrante area, granted General Manager authority to appoint Board of Control members and to commit funds for local share of study, on motion of Director Berk.

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

- Authorized going out to bid for new fuel contract, on motion of Director Copeland.
- Approved travel to Washington, D.C. for General Manager and two staff members in connection with Dial-a-Ride funding, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
- Authorized District attorney to sign checks in absence of General Manager and District secretary, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved extension to Line 18 to serve Hiller Highlands students; inauguration of Line N-MacArthur Blvd. Express; extension of Line 70 to Whitecliff Village, on motion of Director Berk.
- Authorized General Manager to go

AC Transit  
Latham Square Building  
Oakland, California 94612

Return Requested

ROY NAKADEGAWA A-1  
751 THE ALAMEDA  
BERKELEY, CA 94707

### Transit-Times

Published monthly by the  
**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
508 16th St., Oakland, California 94612  
Telephone (415) 654-7878  
Joseph McCord, Editor

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WILLIAM J. BETTENCOURT . . . . . President  
Ward IV  
KIMI FUJII . . . . . Vice President  
Ward V  
ROBERT M. COPELAND . . . . . Director at Large  
RAY RINEHART . . . . . Director at Large  
ROY NAKADEGAWA . . . . . Ward I  
WILLIAM E. BERK . . . . . Ward II  
JOHN McDONNELL . . . . . Ward III

#### MANAGEMENT

ALAN L. BINGHAM . . . . . General Manager  
HAROLD M. DAVIS . . . . . Assistant General Manager  
for Personnel  
GEORGE M. TAYLOR . . . . . Assistant General Manager  
for Administration and District Secretary  
VIRGINIA B. DENNISON . . . . . Public Information Mgr.  
J. DALE GOODMAN . . . . . Transportation Manager  
OZRO D. GOULD . . . . . Claims Manager  
JOHN A. KRAJCAR . . . . . Purchases and Stores Mgr.  
ANTHONY R. LUCCHESI . . . . . Maintenance Manager  
ROBERT E. NISBET . . . . . Attorney  
WARREN E. ROBINSON . . . . . Transportation Engineer  
GORDON G. WADSWORTH . . . . . Safety Engineer  
LOWELL D. WEIGHT . . . . . Treasurer-Controller

out to bid for 42 buses, with option to buy an additional 78, on motion of Director Berk. (See story, Pg. 3).

### Manager to seminar

Anthony R. Lucchesi, AC Transit's manager of maintenance, will attend a two-week management seminar in West-on, Mass., this month.

Conducted by Northeastern University in Boston, the seminar is designed to bring together management personnel in the transportation industry in order to develop improved ways of meeting current challenges within the industry.

BULK RATE  
U. S. Postage

**PAID**

Oakland, Calif.  
Permit #2105