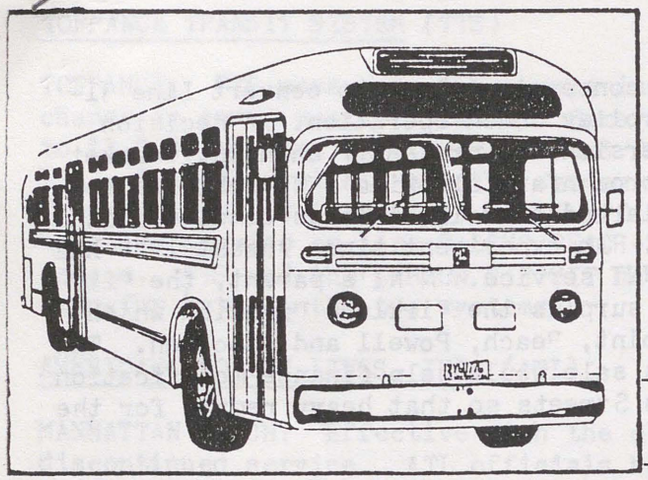


# Western Transit

Monthly Publication of The Western Transit Society

VOL. 24 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 1986

LASSEN RURAL BUS SYSTEM (LRS)

SUSANVILLE: Lassen County, California is located in northeastern part of the state and one of its borders is the State of Nevada. It is principally rural in nature with mountains and is home to the Lassen Volcanic National Park. Local transit is also there, in Susanville and in some other close by towns in the form of LRS. LRS is sponsored by the County of Lassen and operated, under contract, by MOUNT LASSEN MOTOR TRANSIT, INC. using a fleet of three Wayne Transettes with another small bus on order. Susanville, with a population of about 6700 is believed to be the smallest city in California to have an urban transit service which is well patronized, considering all factors. Two different services are offered, a local line CITY BUS operating a loop type route hourly on weekdays between 648AM and 342PM with its major terminal at the Lassen Shopping Center. The other service is the COMMUTER BUS with two weekday only round trips beginning in Susanville at the Lassen Shopping Center (613AM and 200PM) and operating primarily along U. S. Highway 395 to Herlong, a community south of Susanville. Round trip running time is about 3 hours 15 minutes. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the COMMUTER operates along Highway 395 and Herlong Access Road. On Tuesday service is extended to Doyle and operates along Highway 395, Herlong Access Road, Garnier Road and Doyle Loop. On Thursday the bus travels along Highway 395, Janesville's Main Street and Herlong Access Road. Reservations for the COMMUTER BUS are necessary. Within Susanville bus fares are 35¢ general/20¢ seniors with monthly passes at $10/$5. Commuter fares are distance based at 75¢/$1.00/$1.50. $50 general/$35 senior monthly passes for this service are also available.

MOUNT LASSEN MOTOR TRANSIT, INC. (MLMT)

RED BLUFF: MLMT's history dates back over sixty years and at one time operated quite an extensive system into Reno, to Chico, to Red Bluff, to Keddie and other points with schedules operating daily using a fleet of Whites and Fageols. Today there is one daily except Sunday RED BLUFF-SUSANVILLE round trip departing Red Bluff 800AM arriving Susanville 1255PM and returning from Susanville at 130PM arriving Red Bluff 455PM. A mail contract dictates the schedule. A pick up truck with an extra seat handles the scant passenger traffic over this remote but beautiful route traversing generally California Highway 36. MLMT operates a heavy charter bus service from points around Red Bluff using a fleet of three MC 7s and one MC 9 which was acquired this past May. The former VACA VALLEY BUS LINES Flxible was sold (via Hausman Bus Sales) this past spring, but its new owner is not known.

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY BY ATTENDING THE MONTHLY ENTERTAINMENT MEETINGS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 730PM AT 272 ALPINE STREET IN PASADENA AND BY SENDING IN NEWS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN YOUR AREA FOR WT.

SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY (MUNI)

SAN FRANCISCO: MUNI held public hearings during August concerning plans to convert Line 31-BALBOA from present motor coach operation to proposed trolley coach operation. A decision has yet to be made and proposed dates for possible conversion are presently unknown. Market Street is to be permanently converted into a Transit Thoroughfare allowing MUNI vehicles to use all four lanes of Market, construction of twenty enlarged boarding islands complete with safety railings and retiming of traffic lights for MUNI. An experiment since August 1985 has indicated that this program will allow speeding up of MUNI service. MUNI's parent, the City Public Utilities Commission, has conditionally declared surplus the Kirkland Division which is located near Fishermans Wharf and bounded by North Point, Beach, Powell and Stockton. The property has been appraised at about $17 million and its sale would help finance modification and expansion of the Woods Division at Indiana and Tubbs Streets so that heavy repair for the diesel bus fleet would be centered there.

GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT (GGT)

SAN RAFAEL: GGT Directors are investigating turning over all or part of the SAN FRANCISCO-LARKSPUR and SAN FRANCISCO-SAUSALITO ferry operations to private operators (presently there are two firms in San Francisco providing tourist oriented boat service - BLUE AND GOLD FLEET and RED AND WHITE LINES). Failing that there should be efficiencies made in the present system either by changes in staffing and functions performed or by making the vessels more efficient. This year the combined ferry system will lose about $2.7 million which money is coming from the reserves and the capital budget.

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (CCCTA)

WALNUT CREEK: CCCTA officials are presently trying to deal with information that 14 of the 19 lines in the system have lost ridership since last year. Market research efforts are underway to determine riders and potential riders likes and dislikes. Another action being considered is abandonment of current routes and installation of subscription service. The two lines subsidized by businesses for their employees and visitors, BART/CONCORD-CONCORD AIRPORT PLAZA and BART/LAFAYETTE-SAN RAMON BUSINESS PARK, have reached the point that they are bringing in funds to offset losses on the established all day all riders lines.

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT (AC T)

OAKLAND: The second step of a three part Deficit Reduction Plan occurs this month as three lightly patronized bus lines, B2-TRESTLE GLEN-BART/19TH, K2-HAVENSCOURT-BART/FRUITVALE and 62-ALAMEDA-BART/LAKE MERRITT are discontinued and headway on Line 10-RICHMOND INDUSTRIAL is reduced from 15 to 30 minutely. Successful negotiation of an interagency agreement which will increase AC's revenue by $6 million and employee work force reductions in departments which support operations are other elements.

TRANSIT SALES TAX MEASURES - NOVEMBER 1986 ELECTIONS

Voters in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties will be voting on plans to increase the sales tax to fund highway and transit improvements over the next 15 years. The money would be spent on AC TRANSIT, the proposed BART extension from Bayfair Station along I-580 to Dublin Canyon, widening the Nimitz Freeway and numerous other highway and road projects and paratransit programs. The measure is expected to be controversial in both counties, perhaps moreso in Alameda County. The Contra Costa measure would split the funds 53% for roads and highways and 47% for transit, BART, right of way and ridesharing projects. In Alameda County 50% would pay for highway improvements, 19% for street and road projects, 29% for transit improvements including increased bus service and BART extensions and about 2% for paratransit programs for the elderly and handicapped. Recently passed Senate Bill 878 allows Bay Area counties to place a half cent tax before their voters provided a specific spending plan including transit, highway, ridesharing and street and roads elements.

TORRANCE TRANSIT SYSTEM (TTS)

TORRANCE: TTS passenger fares were increased on July 6th, the first across the board fare change in seven years. Standard fare was increased from 35¢ to 50¢ (Los Angeles fare from 70¢ to $1.00), student fares were raised from 25¢ to 35¢ and senior citizens/disabled from 10¢ to 15¢. Transfers within the TTS system will now cost 5¢ (they were free) and interagency transfers will be 15¢ (were 10¢). TTS officials have indicated that they would hope to be able to increase service on Line 3-LONG BEACH-TORRANCE-REDONDO BEACH due to continually increasing patronage. TTS and the CARSON CIRCUIT have signed a cooperative agreement allowing passengers to transfer between the two systems.

AMERICAN TROLLEY LINES, INC. (ATL)

MANHATTAN BEACH: Effective with the close of service on August 9th the MANHATTAN BEACH TROLLEY discontinued service. ATL officials had been given a ninty day termination notice by city officials in July. MBT began service on February 17th under a one year $2000 monthly subsidy contract for one loop type route throughout the city using one vehicle. Ridership grew from 600 monthly to about 1600 despite mechanical breakdowns and the replacement of the trolley with a small conventional school bus early in the summer.

DOWNTOWN AREA SHORT HOP/LOS ANGELES (DASH)

LOS ANGELES: Two routing changes and one schedule change were made on the DASH service on August 4th. Both routing changes affect the southbound routing. In the Chinatown area buses now operate along North Broadway from Bernard to Sunset instead of jogging along Alpine and New High and buses now operate along Flower to 8th to Figueroa to 7th and regular route to serve the new Seventh Marketplace (May Company, Bullocks, Citicorp Plaza). Saturday service now runs every eight minutes between 1000AM and 500PM.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL MUSEUMS SHUTTLE (HMS)

HOLLYWOOD: The new HMS service is being provided for a three month trial period using County of Los Angeles transit funds (WT 8/86). Service operates between the Hollywood Studio Museum located in the Fairfield Parking Lot across Highalnd from the Hollywood Bowl and the Hollywood Bowl's own museum. PACIFIC BUSING, INC. operates the service under contract using one Continental brand small bus painted with a white body, black windows and red and blue trim with the words "Shuttle Bus" - "Hollywood Bowl Museum Hollywood Studio Museum". The bus, which is unnumbered, has 23 forward facing cloth seats, one door, air conditioning, openable windows, roof hatch and AM radio. The HMS route is from the Studio Museum via Fairfield parking lot roadway, Odin Street, Highland Avenue Center Island and Hollywood Bowl roadway to Bowl Museum.

FAIRFAX TROLLEY (FT)

HOLLYWOOD: The route of the FT was recently altered although the service continues at 15 minute headways using two buses between 900AM and 600PM Monday thru Saturday. The new route begins at Melrose and Fairfax via Fairfax, Third, Curson, Blackburn, Colgate, Crescent Heights, 3rd, George Burns Road, Alden Drive, San Vicente and Melrose to Fairfax.

AGOURA HILLS DIAL-A-RIDE (AHDAR)

AGOURA HILLS: Beginning August 1st the AHDAR service was expanded to include persons in Agoura, Malibu Lake, Saratoga Hills, Seminole Hot Springs, Cornell and Triunfo-Lobo Canyon. For a 50¢ fare people can travel to anywhere in Agoura Hills, Oak Park, the newly included parts of the county and two destinations in Westlake Village, the Westlake Community Hospital and the GREAT AMERICAN STAGE LINES, INC. bus stop. The County Board of Supervisors voted to spend $28,000 for the Dial A Ride service in unincorporated parts of the county. AHDAR is provided by cabs.

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (OCTD)

SANTA ANA: September 7th is the date of the Fall Shake Up and with it came one new line and several other changes including changes in the bus fleet. NEW is Line 158-SANTA ANA-COSTA MESA VIA 17TH/WESTMINSTER AND HARBOR which is a weekday peak hour line operating between residential areas of Santa Ana and the industrial/commercial areas of both Santa Ana and Costa Mesa. From 17th and Main in Santa Ana buses will travel via 17th/Westminster, Harbor, looping in the morning via Scenic, Hyland, South Coast Drive and Harbor to Scenic. This loop is reverse in the afternoon. Service will operate about every half hour between 530AM and 830AM and 300PM and 600PM using three buses based at Division 4 (Garden Grove). Line 26-FULLERTON PARK & RIDE-YORBA LINDA was extended from Fairmont and Cordova northward along Fairmont to the new Continuing Education Center while weekday midday trips of Line 46-BALL ROAD no longer divert off Ball Road via Walnut, Katella and West to serve Disneyland. Line 71-TUSTIN AVENUE trips which operate to and from UC Irvine were rerouted to operate on the college campus as other lines do. Line 71 was extended to UCI in June and was operating directly along Campus Drive. Line 141-NEWHOPE-SEGERSTROM/SLATER was extended at both ends - in Irvine all trips were extended from Alton and Jamboree further into the industrial area via Alton, Murphy, McGaw, Jamboree, Main, Skypark South, Skypark Circle, Skypark East and Macarthur to Main. One morning eastbound and one afternoon westbound trip on the 141 branch have been extended from Center and Gothard to Magnolia and Heil via Center, Beach, Edinger, Newland, McFadden and Magnolia. ?? of the 1601-1663 series Flxible 45102-8-1 buses have been taken out of active service and placed into the reserve fleet. This fact coupled with the plan to have retrofitted seven Gillig Phantoms with modified front door wheelchair lifts has caused changes in vehicle assignments. The Gilligs will be assigned to Line 37-EUCLID STREET with its GMC RTS II 3000 series buses along with some present spares being assigned to other accessible lines. Gillig Phantoms (1000 series) will be assigned to 46-BALL ROAD, 61-NEWPORT CENTER-SANTA ANA VIA JAMBOREE, 74-CULVER-MAIN-TALBERT and 141-NEWHOPE-SEGERSTROM/SLATER. Line 158-17TH/WESTMINSTER-HARBOR has been assigned 3000s. Line 161-TRASK-NEWLAND was reinstated for the winter.

SUPERSHUTTLE, INC. (SS)

LOS ANGELES: SS recently purchased its major competitor, 24 HOUR AIRPORT EXPRESS of La Habra (WT 7/86) expanding its fleet from 110 to 310 vans with the ability to now offer home to airport service throughout Orange County. SS will now be able to serve all Los Angeles area airports and will be expanding service to also include the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys. Service generally picks up several passengers in the same general neighborhood and guarantees no more than two additional stops enroute to the airport. Fares are charged on a distance basis. SS has been operating in San Francisco since October 1985 amid a number of cases filed with the Public Utilities Commission (WT 6/86, 5/86) and earlier this summer started service in Phoenix with 35 seven passenger vans. Once a division of Wilmington Cab Company, SS is now an independent company.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (LACTC)

LOS ANGELES: LACTC recently adopted guidelines for transportation zones for cities proposing to offer their own transit service. Emphasized is participation by either public or private providers through the competitive bid process. Guidelines state that three or more cities may join to provide replacement bus service within their boundaries if they can show a 25% cost savings over present costs. The zone would function as a demonstration project and LACTC would fund it for up to three years. If the plan is successful the zone's operators would be eligible for various state, local and federal funds just like the county's 12 municipal carriers. LACTC will provide 95% of the net operating budget and the cities will share collectively in the remainder of the costs using their Proposition A money. Service must run throughout the zone and must link with RTD buses outside the zone. If the new operators cannot meet guideline standards, RTD may be asked to re-enter the area to pick up the service once again. County Supervisor Pete Schabarum is proposing that the 29 cities in the San Gabriel Valley join together to form a zone with bus lines traveling to and from downtown Los Angeles (peak hour express lines) as the first services affected.

ASS TRANSIT LINES-THE BUS (MTL)

HONOLULU: Beginning on July 20th MTL made a number of route number changes. 8-WAIKIKI-AIRPORT/HICKAM was renumbered to 19 while 8-WAIKIKI-ALA MOANA CENTER remained unchanged. 52, the circle island route, has been split into two lines. Buses operating from the Ala Moana Shopping Center via Wahiawa retained the 52 designation while buses operating from Ala Moana to Turtle Bay via Kaneohe are now known as 55. Buses operating via Hawaii Kai to Sea Life Park (old #57) are now designated 58. Buses operating to Sea Life Park via Kailua retain their 57 designation. The actual routes of the affected lines did not change, only their numbers did.

BOISE-WINNEMUCCA STAGES, INC. (BWS)

BOISE: BWS has revised their northbound schedule from Winnemucca to be a day time departure leaving Winnemucca at 945AM. The northbound trip formerly departed at 315AM.

SALMON RIVER STAGES, INC. (SRS)

SALMON, IDAHO: SRS has changed its operating pattern. The SALMON-IDAHO FALLS schedule now operates on Monday and Thursday while the SALMON-POCATELLO service operates on Tuesday and Friday. Buses depart Salmon in the morning, the opposite terminal in mid afternoon and arrive Salmon in the evening. SRS has two Flxible Clippers, both with large baggage compartments.

WILDERNESS TRANSIT COMPANY (WTC)

CRAIG, COLORADO: WTC operations between Grand Junction and Craig (one daily round trip departing Craig in the morning and returning in the afternoon) have been dropped from Russell's Guide. (Ed. Note - it is not known if the company has discontinued operations or if the listing was dropped for some other reason). When last observed WTC was also operating Flxible Clippers.

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION (GMC)

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN: GM officials are considering selling the company's bus manufacturing unit and is also seeking a joint venture partner for its heavy truck manufacturing operation. The decision to sell the bus division after sixty years in the business comes in the wake of declining sales of transit buses in recent years, depressed domestic bus sales and industry wide surplus production capacity. The Pontiac plant was last closed in February due to lack of sales although they are presently in the process of reopening for production of 850 buses for MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY and SNOHOMISH COUNTY (WASH.) TRANSIT BENEFIT AREA d/b/a COMMUNITY TRANSIT as well as some other communities.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT (RTD)

LOS ANGELES: RTD, city, county and federal officials signed contracts on August 27th for the construction of the first 4.4 miles (Union Station to Wilshire & Alvarado) of the Metro Rail system. This segment is expected to cost $1.2 billion. The exact alignment between Alvarado and Hollywood is still subject to further study in order to reroute part of the original plan from the Fairfax district to avoid pockets of methane gas.

September 11th will be the date for a public hearing to consider changes on 26 lines plus the discontinuation of 12 peak hour express lines and the two BEEP lines (410,413,419,423,430, 431,437,438,448,455,492,494,685 and 686).

## EQUIPMENT REPORT

| PROPERTY | FLEET NOS | BUILDER | MODEL/SERIAL | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| -NEW- | | | | |
| Hub Area Transit Authority | (1601-1605 | Ford/Natl | Econ350/Aerotech | 16 seat, W/C |
| | (3701-3704 | Bluebird | MT35/GF070714,--, | 37 seat, W/C |
| | ( | | GF070715,-- | |
| LEASECO (San Francisco Apt) | (601-612 | Orion | 01.506/840,847,853,860, | |
| | ( | | 866,873,879,886, | |
| | ( | | 892,899,912,919 | |
| Kitsap Transit | (430 | Orion | 02.502/G6005068 | |
| | (800-806 | Gillig | 3596TA6V92/D1080447-449, | |
| | ( | | 451,450,452,453 | |
| Laidlaw Transit, Inc. | 5490-5493 | Gillig | 40102TB6V92/F1081322-1325 | 47 seat, 1 door |
| Community Urban Bus Service | 4207 | Gillig | 3096TB6V92/G1081331 | |
| South County Area Transit | unkn | Gillig | 3096TB6V92/G1081476-1479 | |
| SLO Transit | 135-137 | Gillig | 3596TB6V92/G1081477-1476 | |
| Golden Empire Transit | 8601-8630 | Gillig | 3596TB6V92/G1081478-1507 | |
| San Francisco Gray Line | 601 | Leyland | Olympian/CLSBP07 | |
| Express Tours | 787 | TMC | MC9/ER004263 | |
| Allstate Tours & Travel | 110, 111(?) | TMC | 96A3/FR005249-5250 | |
| Westours | (unkn | TMC | 96A3/GR005534-5536 | |
| | (unkn | TMC | 102A3/GR005537-5539 | |
| Citizens Auto Stages | 40-370 | TMC | 102A3/FR005329 | |
| -USED- | | | | |
| Pacific Coast Sightseeing Tours | 5311-5313 | MCI | MC7/U12378S10137-U12376S10139 | ASI 4302-4304 |
| Travis Express, Inc. | (402,404,405 | MCI | MC5B/S9918U7056, | GGT 402,404,405 |
| | ( | | S9920U7058, | |
| | ( | | S9921U7059 | |
| Americoach | (341-342 | MCI | MC9/BP036085-086 | ESL 341-342 |
| | (343 | Prev | LM103/LM103-2653-79 | ESL 343 |
| | (361 | GMC | P8M4905A/473 | ESL 361 |
| | (362-363 | GMC | PD4905/242-243 | ESL 362-363 |
| | (364-365 | GMC | PD4903/363,334 | ESL 364-365 |
| Buena Park Hotel | unnumb | GMC | TDH4516/123 | AC Trnst 445 |
| Hotel Ibis (Taylor Bus Serv) | 125 | GMC | TDH5304/527 | -- |
| Lyndon Stage Lines | 105 | GMD | TDH4519/C252 | SAMTRANS 185 |
| Maile Bus Service (Honolulu) | (53,57,59 | GMC | TDH5303/1562,1980,2006 | MTL 527,579,596 |
| | (unkn,unkn | GMC | TDH5105/2836,2874 | MTL 836,874 |
| | (unkn | AMG | 1024D/425 | MTL 241-wrecked |

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### WTS/WEST COAST MOTOR COACH SOCIETY TRIP

Sunday October 12, 1986
Depart WCMCS Museum, Valley Blvd & LaPuente Drive
La Puente at 1100AM
Return WCMCS Museum approximately 600PM
$10.00 Donation per person
Transit property garage tours presently being arranged
Slide show at museum that evening
WTS Monthly Entertainment Meeting combined with this event for October 1986 only