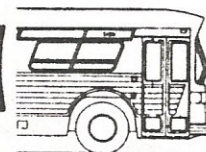


Green Pennant Special



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OMNIBUS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC

RUN #3

APRIL 1982

... d-d-do you see it too?? AAAIIIEEEEEEE!!,
it's Run #3 of the GREEN PENNANT SPECIAL. It
is through this newsletter, which is issued at
periodical intervals, that we hope to keep you,
the OSA membership, abreast of transit news and
meeting/trip notices.

-MARCH MEETING-

Our annual March meeting was held at 7:00 PM
in room 414 at the Loop College in downtown
Chicago. The meeting featured movies from the
James Charles Penning collection, among them
being was "THE GREAT SOUTHWEST DESERT", which
was enjoyed by the 29 OSA members and guests.

-APRIL MEETING-

Our annual April meeting, which would normally
be held on Friday, April 2 WILL NOT BE HELD
(That means CANCELLED). This is due to the
MBS convention, which is being held over the
April 2-3-4 weekend in Cincinnati, OH. We
would encourage all OSA members not to miss
the spring gathering, which will feature a
trip to Dayton, OH.

-MAY MEETING-

The annual May meeting of the OSA will be held
on Saturday, May 8 at the Illinois Railway
Museum. This is in observance of National
Trolleybus Month. A special meeting notice
will be sent out later giving full details.
Special transportation to and from the museum
may be provided, and this will be covered in
more detail in our notice.

GREEN PENNANT SPECIAL STAFF

Editor - Bruce Moffat

Typesetting - Bill Shapotkin

Art and Layout - Vince Dawson

Distribution - John Le Beau

-Contributors-

Mel Bernero Vince Dawson

Bruce Moffat John Le Beau

Bill Shapotkin Charles Tauscher

Larry Plachno Jim Penning

Andris(not home)Kristopans

-Send your news items to-

John Le Beau

15329 Chicago Road

Dolton, IL 60419

-NOTICE-

We regret to announce the passing of Walter A.
Grace (OSA #90), and a cousin to John LeBeau
(OSA #63). Not only did he love buses but he
was a railfan and scale model railroader as
well. His career history included employment
by CTA and South Suburban SafeWay Lines. He
will be missed by all of us.

-WELCOME-

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" is to be extended to
the following new members, who joined us during
the month of February:

OSA #115 Jon Kramer - Jon is President
of Buses Plush, Inc. His firm
does total cosmetic restora-
tion of motor coaches.

OSA #116 John R. Haag - John is Vice
President and General Man-
ager of Peoria Rockfor Bus
Company.

OSA #117 Paul J. Seliga

OSA #118 Mark F. Rendak

-NEWSCAST-NEWSCAST-NEWSCAST-

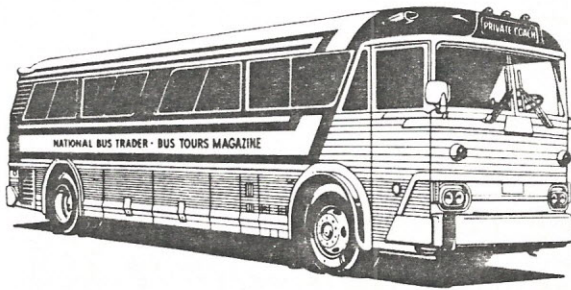
Chicago Transit Authority

CTA has begun the operation of a 60¢ shuttle
fare on bus routes feeding ICG stations
between 47th Street and 95th Street. Those
routes being affected are the 1-2-6-27-28-
30-55-59-63-67-71-75-79-87-95E routes. This
being in an attempt to help boost ridership
on the ICG's South Chicago Branch, on which
the RTA has recently lowered the fares.

The aging structure on 63rd Street of the
Jackson Park "L" was ordered shut down on
March 4. This being due to the much deterior-
ated condition of the bridge over the ICG
at Dorchester. To compensate, 55th Street
on the South Side "L" has been made an all-
stop. The South Deering (#27) has been ex-
tended north of 63rd/Stony Island to 55th/
Prarie to serve the "L" at that point. The
63-63rd Street bus now services the 61st
Street Station via Indiana-61st-King east-
bound and King-61st-Prarie westbound. In
addition, #4 Cottage Grove connects with the
"L" at 61st during the AM-PM rush. The ICG
has been accepting CTA/RTA transfers and
monthly passes 59th and 63rd/64th stations.

-MORE NEWSCAST-MORE NEWSCAST-MORE NEWSCAST-

-FANTRIP-



Larry Plachno, of National Bus Trader, has advised us that a coach to the annual BUS BASH, being held in Tuxedo, MD this year, will be leaving Chicago on the morning of Thursday, May 27th and will return on Tuesday, June 1. Saturday and Sunday will be spent at the BUS BASH, and there will be an overnight stop in both directions. For information, call Larry at 414-728-2691.

Additionally, there will be a double-deck bus rodeo near Minneapolis, MN on either the July 17/18 or July 24/25 weekend. There is the possibility of a Chicago charter to the event, and further details can be obtained from Larry.

South Suburban SafeWay Lines

As reported in the March issue of the GREEN PENNANT SPECIAL, there have been changes at SafeWay. The RTA has cut-back the number of trips on #355-Lansing, a route which was already suffering from overcrowding. This has infuriated the passengers, and it has been charged by some that the route was doing too well, and RTA wants to lower the value of SafeWay's service, in the event of a purchase of the property out of condemnation.

Service has been increased on the three Homewood routes (451-452-453) and Saturday service was added on #353, the Riverdale/Thornton route. Additional trips were added on #359 Robbins and #364 159th Street and #352 Halsted were also beefed up. A new route, #354 Riverdale/Cal. City operating between Ivanhoe ICG station and State-Line/Memorial was added, operating nowhere to nowhere via Dolton was added.

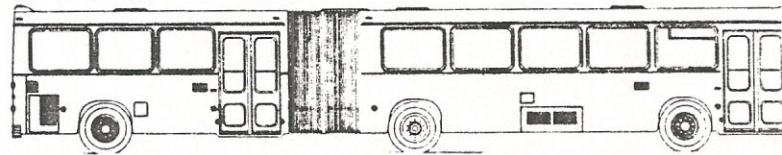
COACH TRAVEL UNLIMITED has acquired the charter coach operations of Kickert Bus Lines.

CHICAGO SOUTH SHORE & SOUTH BEND(IX) has received its first new car from Japan, and it has been seen running in test service on the east end of the line. Although there are 36 new motors and 8 trailers on order, 20 of the old cars will be retained and rebuilt for further service.

Saturday night is not an unusual night for a party, and it's not unusual to ride a bus to the party, however this party was given on a bus. OSA member #40 Daniel Joseph hosted an unforgettable bash on the eve of Saturday, Feb 28 during his "nite-car" run on CTA's 151-Sheridan route.

Bus 7013, an articulated, was decorated with Green and White crepe streamers, and began its run south from Howard "L" about 11:00 PM with a mingle of bus fans, CTA employees, well-wishers and innocent bysitters. On the bill of fare was pizza, pasta, dips, chips, soft drinks and live entertainment. Also attending the party was a group of young ladies from the North Shore area who referred to themselves as "Bus-Groupies" (Oh, the times they are-a-changin').

Daniel has been hosting these in-service parties for about four years now. They originated as a New Year's bash in 1978 on a North Damen "nite-car". You'll remember this New Year's was opted instead for a private midnight ramble on CTA #3407 with Vince Dawson.



-OTHER NEWS-

OSA director Melvin Bernero and member William Shapotkin recently returned from a trip to eastern Indiana and filed the following report:

Fort Wayne is a progressive Transit System in Indiana that serves the needs of the community with a well kept fleet of GMC transit coaches, 4519, 4521 and 4523 fishbowls and RTS 02's and 04's.

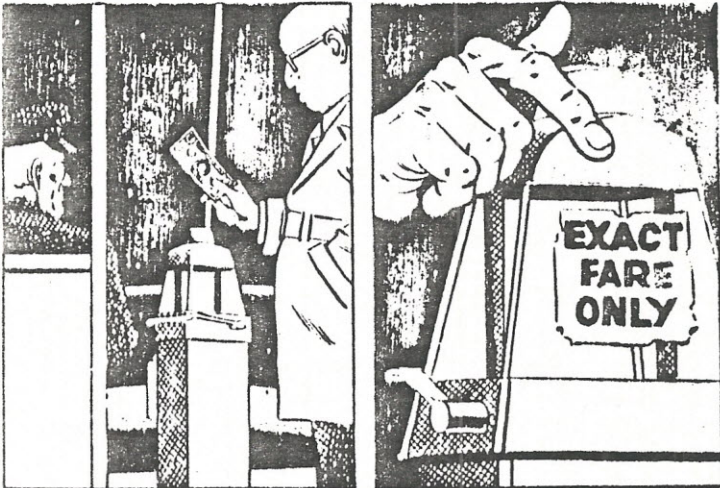
Service is provided on approx. half-hourly headways (some routes running 25, 40 and 45 minutes) on most lines, with rush hour express service also provided. Service operates 6:00AM to 6:00PM, Monday through Saturday, with no Sunday/Holiday service.

Fares are 50¢ with free transfers between routes. All routes congruate within a two block area downtown, but the buses do not line up for a grand departure of all the service at the same time.

-GARY, INDIANA, GARY, INDIANA, GARY, INDIANA-



A recent trip to Prof. Harold Hill's hometown revealed that Gary Public Transportation Corp. has taken delivery of a number of new RTS 4's (T80604) recently. The coaches are numbered in the 8200 series, have blue seats and interior trim and are equipped with public address systems (although are essentially unused). This addition to the fleet supplements an earlier purchase of RTS 2's that were delivered in 1980. These buses will replace an aging fleet of 45 passenger GM fishbowls.



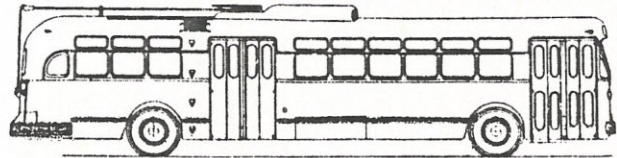
GPTC is having problems with dollar bills too, with the sum of a full fare and transfer now being 85¢, some patrons who are short of change make the grim mistake of inserting dollar bills in the top slots of the Johnson-Keene K-25 fare boxes. The boxes, manufactured in Chicago in the mid-60's and early 70's have a mechanical device for processing and registering six types of coins. Paper money can either constipate the coin chute, or when forced thru, be transformed into a fine confetti. However there are provisions for the bills located in the pedestal-base as the Johnson boxes in our area did.



I.R.M.

The Illinois Railway Museum is offering training for volunteers who wish to work as motormen, conductors or trainmen. Motor and conductor training will begin Saturday March 20, 1982 (rain date: March 27th). Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid drivers licence. Contact Charles Smith c/o the Illinois Railway Museum at P.O. Box 431, Union, IL 60180, for more information.

IRM also has a trolleybus division which is rapidly growing. Last summer, a loop was installed so that the buses can reverse direction without wyeing. Many other projects are on the drawing board, but 'helping hands' are needed. In May, the OSA meeting will be at the trolley bus garage at IRM. Come out and visit.



Service Modifications In Our Area

An alteration has been made in the IRM's Snowflake Special trip scheduled for March 21st, which will be operated on the rapid transit lines. Pullman cars 2001-02 will be used for the first hour or so. A transfer will be made to the historical train (4271-71 and Car 1) on the Loop. The excursion will leave Howard at 9am.

BLACK HOLES I HAVE EXPLORED DEPT.

Tunnel News

Member (and G.P.S. editor) Bruce Moffat has signed an agreement with Interurban Press for them to publish his manuscript on the history and operations of the Chicago Tunnel Company. This two-foot gauge electric railroad operated beneath the streets of downtown Chicago for over a half century, discontinuing service in 1959. On this page are reproduced two views of the system. One view shows a work train operating on the line around 1958, the locomotive looks a little worse for wear. The other shot is a present day view of one of the two surviving locomotives. This particular locomotive is situated in the connecting tunnel leading from the main system into the basement of the Field Museum of Natural History. The author is at the controller. Publication is expected this Fall.

