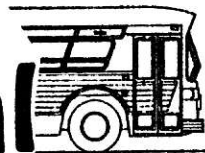


# Green Pennant Special



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OMNIBUS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC

RUN #5

JUNE 1982

WELCOME TO RUN#5 OF THE GREEN PENNANT SPECIAL, the newsletter of the Omnibus Society of America, a non-profit educational organization devoted to the study of transit, bus, rail and other. It is through this newsletter that members of the Society are kept abreast of the latest news in transit and in Society activities. We invite all to send us any news items about transit operations or of any other related news for possible inclusion in our publication which would be of interest to our members.

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## -APRIL MEETING-

Insofar as there was no April meeting due to the Motor Bus Society Convention in Cincinnati, OH we have nothing to report on the April meeting.

## -MAY MEETING-

The May meeting of the OSA was a combination on-location meet and fan trip. Some 25 members and guests were treated to a ride on John Le Beau's own restored GM 'old look' Transit (TDH 4509---see GPS Run #2) from the Chicago area to the Illinois Railway Museum located in Union.



Among the events of the day included rides in ex-CTA #9631, a Marmon-Herrington TC50 and a tour of the trackless trolley division of the museum by OSA member Glenn Andersen. Glenn, a charter member of the Society is best known for his vast collection of photos of trackless trolleys and is considered a technical wizzard at testing, troubleshooting and repair of many U.S. built products. He also plays a key role in the restoration and preservation of CTA's historical collection.

The IRM visit came to a climax as the membership met in a preserved trolleybus (ex-Cleveland Transit System #874) courtesy of OSA member Richard Kunz, and entertained by rare movies and slides of trackless trolley operations not only of the U.S., but overseas as well. Member James Penning auctioned off copies of 'Russells Guides' donating proceeds to the Museum's Trolleybus Preservation fund. In addition, Vince Dawson presented Glenn Andersen with a \$100.00 check on behalf of the OSA to go towards the same fund. This meet was so successful, the directors will plan more meeting/fan trips in the future.



## WHEN YOU HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA

## -JUNE MEETING-

The annual June meeting of the Omnibus Society will be held on Friday, June 4th at the Bismarck Hotel in downtown Chicago. The meeting will be in Parlor E on the 3rd floor. Meeting will start at 7:30 PM. Come one, come all.

## MBS Spring '82

As mentioned earlier, the April OSA meeting was cancelled so as not to conflict with the MBS convention in Cincinnati.

Transportation was provided by a GM4104 (Crosswell Bus Lines, Williamsburg, OH), a Grumman 870 (Queen City Metro, Cincinnati), an MC9 and GM 4903 (Traveline, Fairfield, OH). Among the properties visited were Miami Valley RTA (Dayton), The Bus Company (Hamilton), MTA (Middletown), TANK (Covington, Kentucky) to name a few. Also a visit was made to the Greyhound Facility where the Yellow Coach 743 was visiting.

The MBS business meeting was held in the Cincinnati Downtown Hilton. The highlight of the show was a slide/lecture program of the transit history of the greater Cincinnati area.

Future MBS meets will be Hartford, CT this fall, and Milwaukee in May 1983.

### -MINOR MEANDERINGS-

#### BLOOMINGTON AND COLUMBUS, INDIANA

On the way to the MBS Convention in Cincinnati, your two inept reporters, Mel Bernero and Andris Kristopans ("Scum" to his friends), stopped in at two of the smaller companies in central Indiana; Bloomington (both city and campus operations) and Columbus.

Bloomington Transit System operates a fleet of busses consisting of: Eight Mercedes Benz 0309-D's, Four TMC's and Four Superior DS 700's. In the foreseeable future all of this equipment is going to be replaced by 16 brand new Carpenter Transit Type Busses.

The University of Indiana, Bloomington has five bus routes serving all of the Campus with one of the routes continuing to downtown Bloomington. This service is performed by a fleet of GMC (5301, 5303, 5304, 4521) and Flxible (45096) transits. Most of their fleet is second hand, with only the Flxibles and GMC 4521's new to them, with the busses numbered according to seating capacity. Anyone can ride the university routes, with non-students paying 35¢.

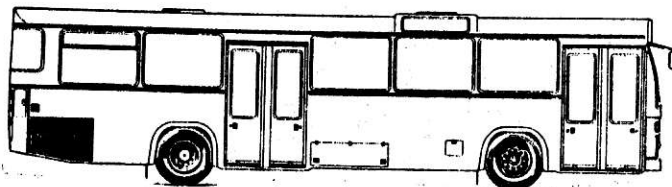
Colum Bus, Indiana uses a fleet of six Mercedes Benz 0309 busses numbered 01 to 06 to serve five routes, and a senior/handicapped dial-a-ride service and patronage appeared to be very good. The busses are painted white and two-tone gray and do not have roll signs, having destination boards instead that hang from hooks in the right front window. Busses are garaged in the city vehicle garage on the outskirts of town.

#### WAUKEGAN/NORTH CHICAGO

While enroute to points north, Green Pennant Staffers Bruce Moffat and Bill Shapotkin stumbled across the garage of Waukegan/North Chicago Transit. The facility, originally a Marigold Barn, currently houses a number of Continental Air Transport Busses (the early AM runs to O'Hare Airport make their overnight home there), as well as the three Waukegan/North Chicago buses which were used by Metron (remember them) and a pair of ex-Elgin Twin Coaches. Waukegan/North Chicago uses RTA pumpkins and Grummans as well as its own 4519's and 4521's to hold down the regular service, which represents perhaps the poorest in the RTA system. As of this writing it is rumored the RTA has bought Waukegan/North Chicago.

#### KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

Bruce and Bill also happened across the property of Kenosha Transit, which operates 6 routes radiating out of the now-malled downtown shopping area. Service is held down by a fleet of RTS 4's and GMC 4523N's, which line-up in the downtown terminal area on a rather interesting headway. Operations are basically hourly with a 30-minute rush during the weekdays, with Saturday service being hourly during the normal rush periods with half hourly midday service (this being for shoppers' convenience). Ridership appeared quit high, despite the total lack of success of the downtown mall.



-NEWSCAST-

RTA LEASING BUSES

As of early 1982, the RTA is leasing a grand total of seven buses to properties in Wisconsin. Green Bay Transit System has 3 ex-West Towns TDH4519's, 851, 878 and 880, to supplement a fleet of 19 fishbowls and 4 RTS2's, until 4 new Neoplans arrive later this year. The West Towns buses are normally used on a temporary shuttle route between a hospital and its parking garage two blocks away.

Sheboygan Transit System has on the property two ex-West Towns, 877 and one other, also a 4519, plus Highway Products TC31's, late of Wilmette and originally Elgin, numbers 1067 and 1068. They are in tripper service, with 1068 actually having a painted-on destination sign reading "TRIP-PER". Sheboygan's regular fleet consists of 3 fishbowls and 20 33-foot Flxibles.

-FANTRIP-FANTRIP-

Although all of the formal details have yet to be made, and a separate notice will be sent, the OSA is holding a fantrip on Saturday, June 5th in both Sheboygan and Green Bay, WI. Formal transportation arrangements and price, times, etc will be forthcoming.



**ODYSSEY  
Charter Coach  
Lines**

ODYSSEY CHARTER LINES, INC.

Odyssey Charter Coach Lines, Inc. has purchased another GM suburban coach. The bus, numbered #252 is ex-Wisconsin Coach Lines #108 (SDM 5302). The bus was added to justify an increased demand in commuter service between Downtown Chi-

cago and the far south suburban community. "Even with the third bus we still have a long list of people wishing to join our commuter groups", says Fritz Schneider, President of Odyssey. The buses are chartered by two commuter groups to make one daily round trip (inbound AM, outbound PM). The Odyssey coaches offer air conditioning, reclining seats, overhead luggage racks and individual reading lights; so it is no wonder the service is so popular. The buses also have commitments for many sporting events, concerts and festivals this summer. Watch for them.

HAS ANYONE SEEN the demonstrator Eagle 10 operating in this area? It's on loan to Munsen's Discovery Coaches. Increased commitments demanded the acquisition of the coach. It's real nice, but not as photogenic as Munsen's standard livery.

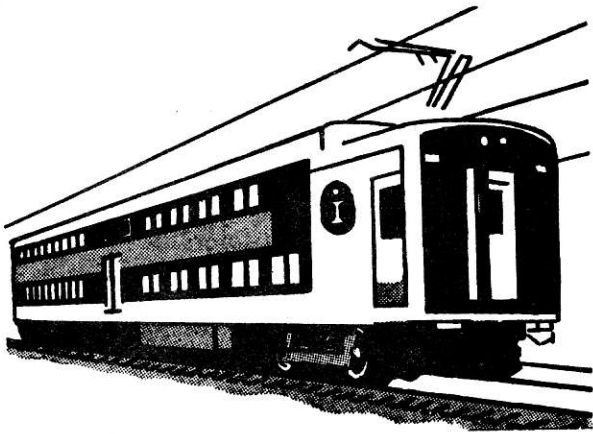
CTA MAPS

CTA has published a new night service guide. This two part pamphlet includes a map illustrating all night bus and "L"-Subway service, while a second insert is a condensed schedule (YES! We said schedule!) of routes originating downtown. Its graphics are superior as it gives information in English, Spanish and Polish. Also hot off the press (ouch! !\*#@!!) is the new CTA system map. The new map shows the proper alterations in bus and rail traffic in the Woodlawn/Jackson Park area.

For copies of these publications, send a self-abused, stomped envelope to CTA Customer Service P.O. Box 3555, Chicago, IL 60654.

JACKSON PARK UPDATE

No decision has been made yet as to the fate of the service on Jackson Pk. branch on the 'L'. However, to accommodate the bus traffic at 61st St. station in the PM rush the entire area between Indiana Ave. and Calumet Ave. (2 blocks) have been declared a bus stand between 4 and 6 PM. Its been strictly enforced by police tow trucks (and an occasional CTA wreck wagon). All types of buses have been sighted in the area, from 5301's from Forest Glen (on loan) to articulateds from 77th Street.



## Illinois Central Gulf Commuter Division Route of the Highliners

Apparently the powers that be at the Illinois Central have realized that there was no money to be made in CTA passes or transfers, so all passengers who wish to use the IC service at 59th, 63rd or 67th, are expected to purchase a regular ticket. The railroad has also postponed badly needed repairs at the 63rd St. station which were scheduled earlier this year.



### COACH TRAVEL UNLIMITED, INC. JOINS IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

West Chicago, IL --- All elements of the nation's transportation system - bus, air and rail --- are joining in the observance of National Transportation Week, which President Reagan has designated as May 16-22.

In his proclamation, the President noted that "Transportation is essential to the development, defense and enjoyment of our country."

The intercity bus industry is a key component in that system, noted the president, Wallace Urban of Coach Travel Unlimited, Inc., headquartered in West Chicago, IL.

"We here at Coach Travel Unlimited are proud of the fact that we had a part in the movement of 378 million people by intercity bus in this country last year," Urban said, "and we were able to do it in a manner that was convenient and affordable to the people the industry serves."

Urban pointed out that the bus industry alone among public intercity transportation modes registered an increase in the number of passengers last year --- up 5 million from 1980. He added: "The bus industry stands ready and able to make an even greater contribution to public transportation needs in the future."

Coach Travel Unlimited, Inc. has been in business since 1975. It serves northeastern Illinois with chartered motor coach service; both locally and to all points in the United States and Canada. Affiliated with Coach Travel Unlimited is Midwest Charter Tours, Inc. - the "Group Tour Specialists" of Motor Coach, Air, Rail, and Cruiseship tours. Also affiliated is Midwest Bus & Equipment Sales featuring small transit - Flxette - sales together with late model used motor coaches and a full line of waste-oil industrial heaters.

In his National Transportation week proclamation, President Reagan declared that by "pacing the evolution of our nation, transportation keeps America moving, producing and growing."

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#### -NOTICE-

If you find mistakes in this newsletter, consider they are here for a purpose. We try to publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.

The Line Crew