



Hello, Humanoids.

This issue of the Green Pennant Special is being produced by computer. Your staff is using this means to get an idea as to the problems we may encounter in producing future issues by this process.

We are also experimenting with layout, and are soliciting responses from the membership as to their feelings concerning this new type of production of GPS.

*** FEBRUARY MEETING ***

The February meeting of the Omnibus Society of America was held in Parlor E of the Bismark Hotel in Downtown Chicago the evening of the 3rd at 7:30 PM.

The program was presented by John LeBeau and Bruce Moffat and was entitled "Smaller Bus Companies of Illinois".

John and Bruce showed slides from their collections of the different bus systems that are out of the six county RTA area, systems that few of our members have visited.

*** FAN TRIP ***

The Omnibus Society of America is proud to announce to its members an upcoming fantrip on CTA 605.

*** FAN TRIP (cont) ***

CTA 605 is an ex-Chicago Motor Coach TDH 5103 and was used in regular service on the CTA until its conversion into training bus BT-4 in 1970.

We will "GO THE MOTOR COACH WAY" and visit many different locations on "THE BOULEVARD ROUTE".

The charter will leave from Washington Garage at 10:00 AM on March 25, 1984 with a stop at the Trailways station on Randolph near State at 10:10 AM and will return at 3:00 PM.

Because 605 can only seat six (6) people, we will also be operating with a Diamond, supplied by Coach Travel Unlimited, with the members rotating between the two pieces of equipment.

The fare will be \$15.00 with seniors, wives, and children free.

See you there!!

*** RTA NEWS ***

On February 1, 1984, the RTA reduced the commuter rail fares (except South Shore) by 10%. This due to the subsidy that was received from the state for the legislative "reform" of the RTA passed in 1983.

*** RTA NEWS (cont) ***

Governor Thompson and Secretary of Transportation John Kramer rode a CNW "Commuter Streamliner" from Arlington Hts., to Chicago in the morning rush to herald the first day of reduced commuter rail fares and see just how the "reformed" RTA was performing.

Bus operations by CTA and RTA have also been coordinated on North Ave., Madison St., and Cermak Road to reduce costs and eliminate service duplications. Flyers detailing the changes on Madison Street (west of Desplaines Ave.) and on Cermak Road (west of 54th Ave.) have been released by RTA. As a part of the West Towns changes, CTA route 86 Narragansett has been extended south to the Lake Street "L" and route 72 North Avenue west to Harlem.

*** OWL SERVICE ***

O'Hare Wisconsin Limousine Services has sued the City of Chicago and Continental Air Transport Company for \$6.5 million, charging a monopoly on bus service between Crown Point, Ind., and O'Hare Airport.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, accuses the city of violating federal anti-trust laws by excluding competitors of Continental, which runs ground transportation to and from the airport on the important downtown hotels to O'Hare route.

On May 27, 1983, O'Hare Wisconsin obtained a certificate from the Interstate Commerce Commission to operate bus service from Crown Point and stops on the way to O'Hare.

The suit says airport officials barred O'Hare Wisconsin from taking on passengers at O'Hare Airport except at the special terminal for "out-of-town" passengers located in front of Carson's restaurant and then on December 22 had police eject passengers from an airport-bound bus.

The city's policy has caused O'Hare Wisconsin to discontinue its service on this route after only a few days of actual operation (all in December). The suit maintains that the entry of OWL into this market would lead to better schedules and more competitive prices for passengers. O'Hare Wisconsin was operating this service under the name of O'Hare Express, Inc., with four buses being used on one occasion to operate only on the Loop to O'Hare portion. A fare of \$6.00, the same as Continental's, was being charged on these runs, resulting in no savings to the potential user.

*** FLYER FAULTS ***

The CTA has discovered that they have a problem on their new Flyer busses. They have discovered that a bolt that is attached to the front axle of the bus is coming loose and falling out.

The CTA says that this has no effect on the safety of the bus, but that they are refusing all future deliveries until the problem is resolved by the manufacturer.

*** DUES REMINDER ***

OSA dues for 1984 are now due and are being accepted by the Treasurer, Bruce Moffat. Dues are \$16.00 for regular members, \$8.00 for senior citizens, and \$8.00 for military personal on active duty.

Dues can be paid to Bruce at the meeting or mailed to him at 6727 N. Loron, Chicago, IL. 60646.

*** NEW MEMBER CORNER ***

The following persons have joined us since the last time we ran this section:

Andrew O'Brien
Joe Diaz
Edward Crew

*** OTHER NEWS ***

Trailways Manufacturing, Inc. shipped the last of ten right-handed Eagle Model 10-L buses to Australia last week. The custom motorcoaches will be used "down under" by Greyhound of Australia (no connection to the American based company) which purchased the special buses.

**Green Pennant Special
STAFF**

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*** LATE COACH NEWS ***

Royal Coach Lines of Racine recently purchased a used Neoplan Double Decker in California. It ran to New Orleans in December for the ABA Marketplace, and is expected to be refurbished before being put in regular service as a high-capacity unit.

On 01/21/84, Wisconsin Illinois Stages moved to a garage on the west side of Delavan in a small industrial area. The garage is approximately 50 x 80, has concrete floors and a trench drain, overhead heating units, two overhead doors, and a fuel pump. The company has formally operated with outdoor parking in Elkhorn but elected to rent its own garage because of the recent cold weather and addition of a full time mechanic to the staff.

*** MARCH MEETING ***

Our next regular meeting will be held at the Bismarck Hotel on Randolph St. in downtown Chicago on March 2nd. John Dowdall will show slides of his past travels around the country. See you at 7:30 PM.

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Not included in the CTA bus book was this rare plan of 8499.

(Bruce Moffat collection)

