

Transportation

New Buses Ready For Road

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District will begin putting the first of 23 new, advance design buses in service Monday on heavy passenger runs.

Nearly all of the 23 buses have arrived in Santa Cruz, after having been driven across country from the Grumman Flexible plant in Ohio.

The district is road testing the new vehicles and training its 122 drivers before putting the white, black and blue buses on scheduled runs.

The new buses will be easily spotted because of their sleek, modern design and their large, black-tinted windows.

Fiberglass panels on the exterior are easily replaceable to make repairs easier and less expensive than conventional sheet metal.

Inside, the buses sport a sculptured look with the large windows, again, the focal point. The windows do not open because the buses have climate-controlled air conditioning.

The new buses are six inches wider than older coaches, providing for a larger passenger aisle, yet they have a tighter turning radius and are more maneuverable than older equipment.

Other interior changes include a rear door that opens automatically at a touch of the handle, rather than by physical force as on present models.

Passengers wishing to signal their stops will find no cord to pull on the new buses. Instead, the signal is activated by touching a narrow yellow panel along the top of the windows or smaller yellow panels on the window posts.

All of the new buses are equipped with lifts to accommodate handicapped passengers. The buses also "kneel," that is, the front of the bus lowers some eight inches to allow for easier access to the stairs or lift.

The diesel-powered buses will carry 38 seated passengers and 19 standing passengers. Initially, says K.C. Boyle of the district, the new buses will be placed on heavy runs, such as Watsonville-Santa Cruz, UC Express and 41st Avenue.

The new buses bring the district's fleet to 80. They will provide added capacity on existing runs and will be used to start up new service on the districts new, Jan. 3 timetable.



(Sentinel Photos By Pete Amos)

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PART OF 625 FINE HANDMADE RUGS FROM PERSIA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, CHINA, TURKEY, ETC., WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE PIECE BY PIECE. A LARGE VARIETY OF SIZES AND QUALITIES. PART PAYMENT FOR THE MERCHANDISE MADE. THE GOODS WERE ORDERED UNSEEN, AND A DISPUTE HAS ARISEN AMONGST THE PARTIES INVOLVED. TO THE BALANCE DUE. WE HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED BY THE PRINCIPLE TO TERMINATE HIS HOLDINGS. URGENTLY NEEDED CASH. THIS AUCTION SHOULD BE MISSED.

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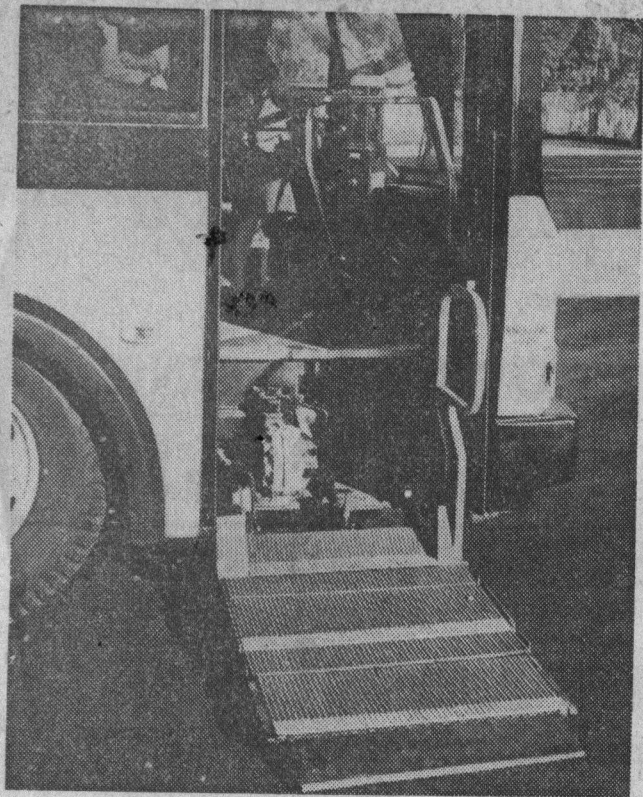
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2800 PORTER STREET
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View: 1 hour prior
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on existing runs and will be used to start up new service on the districts new, Jan. 3 timetable.

New Santa Cruz transit buses feature spacious interiors

(Sentinel Photos By Pete Amos)



New "kneeling" buses feature lifts to accommodate handicapped passengers

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