

SC Bus Service Cut Drastically

Peerless Halts 'Flag Stops' Starting Today

Peerless Stages announced today it no longer will make "flag stops" in the city of Santa Cruz.

Peerless Traffic Manager Lloyd Cole of San Jose told The Sentinel that the only stop within the city will be made at the Greyhound depot, temporarily located in the Southern Pacific railroad station at 123 Washington street.

With the recent change in depot location from Front street, Peerless originally planned to come in and go out Front street but the Santa Cruz city police department "insisted that we don't," Cole said.

Instead, the bus line will enter and depart Santa Cruz over the Washington-Chestnut street connection to the freeway.

Cole said the police department also said the bus firm can not make any stops within the city, other than at the depot.

"Flag stops" were being made by outgoing Peerless buses at Soquel and Front street, Front street and Water street and Water street and Ocean street.

The new routing and elimination of "flag stops" are effective today, Cole concluded.

Lt. McKinley Reed, city police traffic officer, today denied he has made any statement to Peerless on eliminating "flag stops" routing buses down Chestnut-Washington instead of Front street.

PG&E Ordered To Make Refunds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Pacific Gas & Electric company, has been ordered to make additional refunds to its customers—including some to home owners.

State Public Utilities Commission Tuesday ordered refunds totaling \$2,259,944, including \$1,054,143 to go to small gas service customers including residential.

The refunds will be made on monthly bills and will amount to little more than seven cents for each 1000 cubic feet of gas used by customers.

The PUC ordered the refunds because PG&E got additional rate increases from the El Paso Natural Gas company, the principal sup-

Transit Line Trims Service On Saturdays

Santa Cruz Transit lines this morning confirmed that Saturday bus service will be cut drastically, beginning this weekend.

Owner Chester Smith said his firm will cut bus intervals to two hours on all routes, and that one bus will take the place of three on the routes. Bus runs are now at half hour intervals on all but the Soquel-Capitola route.

Smith admitted his firm planned to drop Saturday service entirely, but kept the single bus at the behest of the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC reportedly has taken no action to stop the service cut. Formal application for a service cut is unnecessary, the PUC said today.

An application to drop the county hospital route will be filed with the PUC "within 10 days," Smith added.

The change means that two buses will not run on Saturdays, and that one bus will enlarge its route to cover all other routes.

Smith said the "people of Santa Cruz are entitled to better service than they are getting," but it is financially impossible for his firm to support better service. He made a plea for "some type of city assistance" in the form of a subsidy for better service.

The bus line owner revealed he is working "right along with PUC engineers" to plan new routes for the coming year.

Saturday schedules now will be as follows, according to Smith, with all stops at the same places:

Capitola-Soquel — Buses will leave Pacific and Soquel avenues at 9 and 1 a.m., and 1, 3 and 5 p.m.

Greyhound—Returning from Soquel a half-hour later, the buses will go directly to the temporary Greyhound bus depot at the Southern Pacific railway station near the beach.

Mission-Cliff — Starting at 8:30 a.m., buses will run every two hours from Pacific and Soquel avenues.

Bay and Fair streets—The Bay and Fair street runs will be covered by the Mission Cliff route, but bus stops will be in the same locations.

DeLaveaga Park — The Soquel-Fairmount-Water run, including the county hospital and beach, has not been a Saturday run for some months, Smith said, and no change will be made.

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