

Subscription Renewals for 1986

If your membership subscription expires in December 1985 you will find a Membership Renewal Advice form enclosed with this news sheet. The subscription rates have had to be increased, but you will be able to pay for two years together and gain a small discount. Hopefully the 'Photo-News' feature will become a regular part of the news sheet, and this has been allowed for in the new subscription rates. Please return the renewal advice to the Membership Secretary with your cheque or Postal Order, and please do not staple cheques, etc. to the form. Subscriptions can be renewed at Rochford meetings and at the Annual General Meeting on January 11th (see below), but please bring the renewal advice with you. This does make things easier at this busy time. Bob Palmer thanks everybody, in advance, for their co-operation.

Changes of Address

Just a reminder that if you are changing your address please notify either the Membership Secretary or the News Sheet Editor and, if possible, please give the date that your new address applies from, in order to assist the News Sheet Editor. If you require a new membership card you should enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

News Sheet Envelopes

Following the recent introduction of the larger C5 size news sheet envelope you can help the Group make some small financial savings by returning the envelopes for further use. You can give the envelopes to any Committee member at Group meetings, or post them back to the News Sheet Editor with news sheet contributions, etc.

Rochford Meeting -- Tuesday, December 3rd.

The next meeting at the Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd commencing at 1930 hrs. This will be a Christmas Social Evening; there will be no formal business, but the bar will be open and sausage rolls, mince pies, etc. will be provided. The admission charge for this meeting will be £0.50, to help meet the costs of providing food. Members are also invited to bring along any bus books, magazines, etc. which they wish to sell, with the Group taking 10% of the proceeds of any sales. Members and guests planning to attend this meeting are asked to telephone the Events Secretary (Richard Delahoy) on Southend (0702) 588590, so that we may know approximately how many to cater for.

Annual General Meeting -- Saturday, January 11th, 1986

This is a preliminary notice that the Group's twenty-first Annual General Meeting will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, January 11th, 1986 at Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford. Please mark the date in your diary now.

New Publication

The following new Group publication is now available :-

E.P. 1 - Eastern National O.C. Ltd. - 1985 Fleet List

This publication contains full details of the Company's fleet, including chassis and body numbers, service vehicles, livery details and a directory of depots. It was first published in May 1985, but has now been updated to October 1985 by the inclusion of a supplement.

Price : £0.75 (including postage)

Orders for this publication, and all other Group publications, should be sent to the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 19. Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, Essex. SS3 9NX).

Report on Autumn Excursion -- Saturday, October 5th, 1985

The vehicle used for this event was 2730 VX, a preserved Bristol MW5G saloon kindly made available by the Eastern National 1407 Preservation Group. She certainly performed well, the full load proving quite a test for the five cylinder engine particularly on the inclines and through the narrow country lanes. Our first stop was at the London Country garage at Stevenage where attention focused on two STL's;

however, these turned out to be new Green Line coaches (Scarborough Tiger Long) and not pre-war A.E.C. Regent's. Much activity was seen at the local Bus Station including Leyland Atlantean's and Leyland National's with the local "Stevenage Bus" name. We left a little late due to waiting for the 1230 hrs. departure to Biggleswade of Cooks Coaches in the shape of former London Transport MD18, which also transported local member John Sharland home for lunch.

We enjoyed a very long stop at Walkern photographing the varied school bus fleet of Sworders Coaches all beautifully turned out in their unusual two tone grey livery. Their tow truck, aptly named "Doctor Hook", was also presented for the cameras. After a long drive, we then stopped in Finchingham where time was divided between feeding the ducks in the famous village pond and a visit to Wiffens Coaches to photograph their former London Transport DMS's and "Executive Hliner" coach fleet.

The last visit was to Hedingham Omnibuses, in their 25th anniversary year, where an extensive selection of vehicles was on view including many former Eastern National vehicles (Bristol LH6L's, Bristol REL6G, Bristol FLF6G and Bedford YMT's). Then it was back home along the A12, when the 40 m.p.h. speed barrier was almost exceeded.

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EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

NIL

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Vehicles On Order

Delivery of the first Mercedes-Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess B20F mini-bus vehicles is expected to occur in the very near future. It is understood that they will be able to carry five standing passengers, and that they will be delivered initially in a yellow and white livery. However, it is expected that the livery will be revised by the Company, probably to yellow and blue. The fleet numbers for these vehicles will be 0200-0224. As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, it should be noted that the vehicles are not a diverted order from another NBC subsidiary company.

Re-built Vehicles

Work has now been completed on the conversion of Bristol RELH6G coach 2203 (X00878L) into a disabled persons' vehicle. The seating capacity of this vehicle is confirmed as C17F plus 8 wheelchairs, and this coach has now entered service at Chelmsford (CF) depot.

Allocations & Transfers

11.85 1111 SE-CN, 1114 SD-CF, 1126 DT-SE, 1812 SE-BE, 2203 D/L-CF, 3039 SE-BS,
3041 BS-SE, 3059 BE-SE, 3111 CF-SD, 3119 SD-CF.

Leyland Tiger dual-purpose vehicle 1111 (HHLJ372Y) is now attached to the Coaching Department. The full list of vehicles currently attached to the Coaching Department is 1110-5/28/9, 1300-10, 1600-3, 4500/3.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3002 (CPU981G) remains allocated to Chelmsford (CF) for driver training duties.

At the time of writing, Leyland National's 1789, 1800 and 1834 continued to be fitted with Clacton (CN) depot allocation plates (see also NS258/9), although it is understood that it is still the Company's intention to fit Walton-on-Naze (WN) depot allocation plates in the near future.

The Bristol REL6G Survey Vehicle 1548 (WNO537L) has been taken out of service, and it is currently in store at Chelmsford (CF) depot where it is being used as temporary staff accommodation during re-building works. It is understood that this vehicle may be withdrawn from service in the near future.

The Company has provided current allocation information for its Pool vehicles. Bristol REL6G's 1536/9/41/9 are stored at Prittlewell (PL); Bristol REL6G's 1545/7 and Bristol VRTSL6G 3001 are stored at Clacton (CN)/Walton-on-Naze (WN); Bristol VRTSL6G's 3000/4 are stored at Maldon (MN). These vehicles are all

delicensed Pool vehicles (D/L (P)); Bristol VRTSL6G 3024 is a licensed Pool vehicle (PL (P)), and this vehicle is also currently stored at Prittlewell (PL).

Vehicle Repaints:

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks, and this continues from the information published in NS259 :-

August	w/e 31.8.85	- 3027 at CR (partial repaint only - lower deck) (see NS259).
September	w/e 21.9.85	- 1552 at CR (partial repaint only) (see NS259).
October	w/e 12.10.85	- 1750 at CR (partial repaint only), 1806 at MN.
	w/e 19.10.85	- 3084 at CW.
	w/e 26.10.85	- 1701 at CW, 1852 at BN, 1903 at CW.
November	w/e 2.11.85	- 1055 at CW, 1824 at CW.
	w/e 9.11.85	- 1743 at CW, 1778 at CW, 1866 at CW.
	w/e 16.11.85	- 1744 at CW, 1804 at CW, 1819 at CW, Stores lorry A890TYY at CW.

A new programme of only repainting certain vehicles externally has commenced recently. The vehicles are at Central Works for less than a week, and vehicles listed above to receive these external repaints are 1778, 1804/19/24/66 and 1903.

Additionally, Hedingham Omnibuses' former Eastern National Bristol LH6L L112 (UVX 5S) was repainted at Central Works during late-October.

General

Members may be interested to know that the Northern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. commenced operations on September 1st, 1985 as a coaching unit of Northern General based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. When the National Omnibus & Transport Co. Ltd. was split up, five new Companies were registered on February 28th, 1929. Three of these (Eastern National, Southern National and Western National) became operational, whilst the other two (Midland National and Northern National) did not. However, the Companies have been kept in existence to preclude use of their names by other concerns, and the recent commencement of operations by Northern National now only leaves Midland National as the remaining non-operational Company.

From January 1st, 1986, the Company's engineering division (Eastern National Engineering) will become a separate Company, with the title Eastern National Engineering Ltd. Ownership of certain service vehicles will pass to Eastern National Engineering Ltd., including Ford Transit vans YVX841X and A295UYT and Ford Cargo stores lorry A890TYY.

A number of vehicles from other operators have received attention at Eastern National Engineering's Central Works during recent weeks. These have included Ambassador Travel LL803 (HVG803V), Cambus Bristol VRTSL6G 719 (YNG209S), Ford, Althorne Bedford YMT/Duple CKX392T, London Buses Ltd. LS90 (QJD89OR), London Country AEC Reliance coaches RS136/8-40 (EPM136V etc.), Hedingham & District Omnibuses L123 (BGY590T) and L133 (BHK710X), Shaftesbury Society's former Eastern National Bristol RELH6G coach VHK175L, an Army (Essex Yeomanry) Bedford TK lorry with registration number 47 GJ 52 and a Danbury Haulage Foden lorry JFL795W. The London Buses Ltd. Leyland National (LS90) received a major overhaul, and it has been reported that it would then pass to Kent Engineering Ltd. for repaint. The four London Country AEC Reliance coaches are also receiving major overhauls prior to being returned to Kirkby-Kingsforth (dealer), following the expiration of their lease. Southend Transport Leyland Leopard coach 347 (XWX184S) is currently at Central Works receiving an engine overhaul.

The Company still owns the preserved Bristol K5G AJN 825, which during recent years has been kept at the Castle Point Transport Museum Society's museum at Canvey. During early-November, this vehicle was moved from Canvey to Central Works for an overhaul and repaint, and this work is expected to continue over the Winter period.

In common with many other NBC subsidiary companies, a one day strike disrupted the Company's services on October 29th. Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. provided seven additional vehicles to cover the various commuter services normally operated by Eastern National (services 192-6); the vehicles involved were 775 (morning only), 805, 813, 823, 824, 854 (evening only), 855 (morning only), 856 and 872 (evening only). Some services were operated normally by Colchester (CR) depot, and 3091 CF (on loan to CR) was noted on service 119, which was only operating between Great Totham and Weeley.

The Essex County Standard reported on October 18th that Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd. has made an application for an established use planning certificate in respect of the former Eastern National depot at Kelvedon (KN). The report stated that Hedingham Omnibuses intend to keep 20-30 vehicles at the depot, and that Kelvedon Parish Council has expressed concern at the proposal.

Temporary Loans

Bedford YMQS 1059 (TJN982W) remained on temporary loan to Brentwood (BD) depot at the time of writing, whilst as noted above Bristol VRTSL6G 3091 (STW 35W) has been on loan to Colchester (CR) depot during recent weeks, being noted on services 6/6A on October 15th and 53 on October 31st.

At Silver End (SE), Bristol VRTSL6G 3048 (JNO189N) was noted on loan from Braintree (BE) on October 11th and operating on service 353, whilst Leyland National 1813 (VNO736S) operated on loan to Braintree (BE) on October 1st, being noted on service 311.

There have been a fewer number of temporary loans at Harwich (DT) during recent weeks. Colchester (CR) vehicles on loan were 1123 (18.10-21.10), 1650 (4.10-18.10, and again from 1.11) and 1705 (28.9-30.9). 1655 CN was on loan from 9.10-12.10, and these temporary loans were replacing the following vehicles at Colchester (CR) - 1117 (from 1.11 with an engine failure), 1126 (15.10-23.10), 1552 (28.9-30.9), 1653 (9.10-12.10) and 1750 (4.10-15.10). Other news from Harwich (DT) is that Leyland Tiger dual-purpose vehicles 1117 and 1126 continued to operate a large number of excursions and private hire journeys during October, including journeys from Basildon to London on October 4th (1126), from Chelmsford to Ilford on October 11th (1117) and an excursion from Walton to Newmarket on October 19th (1117). Passenger loadings rose sharply on service 423 (Harwich-Ipswich) during late October, and from October 29th double-deck vehicles were introduced on the Tuesday journeys, with 3061 being used on October 29th. A Saturday service on service 423 will commence on November 23rd, and will operate until December 21st (see below). Various rail replacement services have also been operated during recent weeks. Services between Harwich and Parkeston Quay were operated by 1117 (12.10), 1126 (6.10) and 1920 (5/6.10), whilst services between Harwich and Manningtree were operated by 1901 (14.10), 1117 (17.10), 1552, 1650/3 (2.11) and 1552, 1650/3, 1750 (3.11).

Service Developments

The Company has applied for a number of service revisions during recent weeks, and brief details of these changes are as follows :-

- 41 - Fridays only : 1630 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (Bus Station) to operate 3 minutes later at 1633 hrs., and to operate via normal route and not via New Street Works.
- 105 - Minor route revisions.
- 107 - Minor route revisions. 1545 hrs. journey from Lexden (Norman Way Schools) on Schooldays operates to Colchester (Bus Station) via A1124, Southway, Head Street and High Street.
- 108 - Minor route revisions.
- 109 - Minor route revisions.
- 123 - Mondays to Fridays (when Schools are closed) : 1525 hrs. journey from Manningtree to Ipswich to be withdrawn, and be replaced by an Eastern Counties service 95 journey.
Schooldays : 0840 hrs. journey from Ipswich to Mistley to operate 15 minutes earlier at 0825 hrs., and to operate via Chelmondiston, Woolverstone and Holbrook High School arriving at Mistley at 0932 hrs. 1525 hrs. journey from Manningtree to Shotley to be withdrawn, and be replaced by an Eastern Counties service 95 journey.
Saturdays : an additional journey to be introduced from Mistley to Ipswich at 1532 hrs., arriving at Ipswich at 1624 hrs.
- 300 - Weekdays : service re-introduced from November 4th, with minor revisions to late afternoon journeys on Mondays to Fridays. This service continues to operate from Beldams Lane (Dimsdale Crescent) to Havers Lane Estate (Ward Crescent).
- 307 - Thursdays only : 0940 hrs. journey from Bishop's Stortford (Station Road) now starts from Havers Lane Estate (Ward Crescent) at 0938 hrs. (and introduced from November 4th).
- 321 - Mondays to Fridays : an additional journey to be introduced from

- Braintree (Bus Park) to Springwood Industrial Estate at 0848 hrs.
- 330 - Mondays to Fridays (when Schools are closed) : 0838 hrs. journey from Marlborough Road to Springwood Industrial Estate to terminate at Braintree (Bus Park) at 0848 hrs.
Schooldays : 0831 hrs. journey from Alec Hunter School to Springwood Industrial Estate to terminate at Braintree (Bus Park) at 0848 hrs.
- 361 - Mondays to Fridays : 1609 hrs. journey from Warley (Eagle Way) to Chelmsford operates 5 minutes earlier at 1604 hrs. (and introduced from October 28th).
- 423 - Saturdays : additional Saturday service introduced from November 23rd to December 21st, departing from Harwich at 0945 hrs. and from Ipswich at 1600 hrs.
- 473 - Fridays only : Christmas shopping service introduced on Fridays only from November 8th to December 20th between Colchester (Bus Station) and Romford (St. Edwards Way) via Tiptree, Great Totham, Witham and Hatfield Peverel.
- 795 - Revised period of operation during the Winter timetable period (which commenced on October 26th) is Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. There is one return journey from Southend to Brighton, departing from Southend at 0815 hrs. and from Brighton at 1715 hrs. Eastern National operate the service on Fridays and Mondays, whilst on Saturdays and Sundays a Southend Transport vehicle is used with an Ensign Bus Co. driver, or Southend Transport driver under contract to Ensign Bus Co.
- 801 - Minor route revisions in the Basildon area for journeys operated by a through coach from Southend (see also NS258/9).
- 812 - Picking up/setting down points between Bishop's Stortford and Luton are at Bishop's Stortford (Bus Station), Thorley (London Road), Sawbridgeworth (White Lion P.H.), Old Harlow (Post Office), Harlow (Bus Station), Hertford (Bus Station), Hatfield (LCBS Garage), St. Albans (London Road), Harpenden (High Street, George Hotel) and Luton (Bus Station) (additional information to NS258/9).

The Company has applied for a full licence for the Colchester area Countrycar services, to operate on Weekdays.

The Company has withdrawn its application for revisions to service 87A (see NS259).

Other service revisions introduced during recent weeks have been as follows :-

- 234 - Weekdays : 2010 hrs. journey from Basildon Hospital operates 7 minutes later at 2017 hrs. from Basildon Hospital, and then 10 minutes later from Basildon (Bus Station) to Runwell Church (and introduced from October 28th).
Saturdays only : 2115 hrs. journey from Basildon (Bus Station) to Runwell Church operates 10 minutes later at 2125 hrs. (and introduced from November 2nd).
- 237 - Weekdays : 2039 hrs. journey from Runwell Church operates 10 minutes later at 2049 hrs. (and introduced from October 28th).
Saturdays only : 2139 hrs. journey from Runwell Church operates 10 minutes later at 2149 hrs. (and introduced from November 2nd).

With effect from November 18th, for a period of approximately one week, due to roadworks in Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford, services 308 and 309 will be re-routed via Hockeril Street, Stansted Road, Parsonage Lane, Heath Row, Manston Drive and then around the Heath Row loop returning to the town centre.

With effect from November 25th, for a period of approximately three weeks, due to road works in Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, services 70/A, 304, 307, 317 and 318 will operate via the A120 By-pass and Stansted Road resulting in delays of between five and ten minutes on all journeys.

Reconstruction work is continuing at Basildon Bus Station (see also NS258), and all passengers and enthusiasts are warned that they must not cross the vehicle forecourt but should use the designated crossings at either end of the Bus Station.

Members may be interested to know that Essex County Council has recently purchased some bus timetable frames, similar to the Eastern National yellow roadside frames, and these are being erected in the Nazeing area for use on Goldon Boy Coaches services 392 and 393.

In connection with town centre redevelopment and pedestrianisation schemes in Southend, there have been a number of changes to bus routes in the central area. As part of the redevelopment of the Royals site near Pier Hill, a new temporary road linking Grove Road to Chancellor Road had opened by October 25th, replacing Church Road and Heygate Avenue for services 7 and 8 and also for vehicles running dead. From November 3rd, this new temporary road has also been used by service 20 (see below). The Company's former Pier Hill Coach Station (which was closed in 1966, and finally sold in 1974) was also demolished during October. With the pedestrianisation of the remainder of High Street, Southend from November 3rd, service 20 now operates from Central Bus Station via Grove Road, temporary road (see above), Chancellor Road, Queensway and Southchurch Avenue to the Kursaal (instead of via Heygate Avenue, High Street, Pier Hill and Marine Parade). This means that Pier Hill no longer has a bus service; it was first used by buses on June 25th, 1914. An all day, year round service has been restored to Southchurch Avenue (part); the last all day, year round service ended on November 6th, 1951, when trolleybus service 51 was reduced to Summer only operation. Also in connection with the pedestrianisation scheme and associated changes to nearby streets, services 6/6B, 24/24A/24B now operate inbound to Southend via Clarence Road instead of via Nelson Street and Capel Terrace, and this revision was also introduced from November 3rd.

Further applications have been made for revisions to the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd., and details are as follows :-

- 192 - Additional picking up points to be Ongar (Four Wantz) and Tylers Green (The Talbot P.H.), and minor timetable revisions. Route between Victoria (Artillery Row, Victoria Street) and Millbank (Tate Gallery) to be via Vauxhall Bridge Road (inward) and via Horseferry Road, Greycoat Place and Artillery Row (outward).
- 194 - Mondays to Fridays : 1655 hrs. journey from London (Millbank, Tate Gallery) to Braintree (White Courts Estate, Windermere Drive) to operate via the Great Dunmow By-pass (A120).
- 195 - Mondays to Fridays : 1610 hrs. and 1750 hrs. journeys from London (Millbank, Tate Gallery) to Tye Green operate via Coggeshall Road, Marlborough Road, Mountbatten Road, Coggeshall Road, Stubbs Lane, Chelmer Road and Mill Lane (D1018) to Jeffrys Road.

Fares were increased on the commuter services from August 5th, by approximately 7-10%. From September 23rd, Eastern National ceased to provide a coach for services 190 and 191 on Mondays and Fridays (see also NS255), and both services are now fully operated by Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. on a similar basis to that pattern of operation prior to May 31st.

Members may be interested to know that London Regional Transport has recently invited tenders for operation of a further ten routes in the Greater London area. These include services 20 (Walthamstow-Debdon), 167 (Loughton-Ilford), 206 (Walthamstow-Loughton) and 217B (Enfield-Upshire), and the tender closing date is November 25th.

Essex County Council has also recently invited tenders for operation of services 201 (Ongar-Loughton), 250 (South Woodford-Waltham Cross) and 250A (Waltham Cross-Upshire).

Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :-

Timetable leaflets - new timetable leaflets for services 300 (dated November 4th), 324/5 (dated September 2nd) (see also NS258), 423 (dated November 23rd), 473 (dated November 8th) and 795 (dated October 26th).

City Tripper Leaflet - a leaflet containing details of 'The Double Decker City Tripper', a Saturdays only service operating from Silver End (E.N. Depot) to London (Victoria, Eccleston Bridge) on November 2nd/16th/30th, December 14th/28th, January 4th/25th, February 1st/15th, March 1st/22nd and April 12th/26th (and the leaflet is dated November 2nd).

Highwayman services - a leaflet (dated October 27th) containing details of the new excursions available on Highwayman service 801 (see NS259).

Essex County Council leaflets - a timetable revision leaflet (No. 1) for the Colchester/Clacton/Harwich area book, dated July 1985.
- timetable leaflets (all dated August 31st) for the Great Parndon/Nazeing/North Weald/Ongar/Roydon/Thornwood areas (6 leaflets), for services 392/3.

Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

18.9 -1120 DE noted on service 311.

16.10-1111 SE observed on service 53; 1657 CF noted carrying Chelmsford (CF) depot allocation plates for the first time since November 1984.

18.10-3072 SD noted on service 5 - 3071-6 all still carry City 400 livery, although these vehicles are now being used on a variety of stage services, with 3071 SD being noted on service 11 on 19.10 and on service 11A on 13.11, 3072 SD being noted on service 20 on 2.11, 3073 SD being noted on service 11A on 1.11 and 2.11, 3075 SD being noted on service 11 on 30.10 and 3076 BN being noted on service 403 on 11.11.

19.10-1128 BD and 1129 CF operated a three day private hire tour to Breda, Netherlands for the Chelmsford Swimming Club, outward via Dover (19.10) returning via Ghent and Dover (21.10); 1300 CF noted at Southend (SD) depot; 3078 CR (but still carrying CF depot allocation plates) noted on the 2300 hrs. service 44B journey from Chelmsford to North Melbourne, a journey normally operated by a Leyland National; Southend Transport 248 and 250 operated the Miracle Bus contract service.

20.10-Southend Transport 230 observed on a rail replacement service from Shenfield to Hockley; Grey-Green LYV687P, CYH769V, YYL773/5T, FYX814W, PYE842Y and A855UYM noted on a similar service from Liverpool Street to Chelmsford; National Travel (East) 35 (B35 UNW) noted at Chelmsford (Bus Station), where it stayed for several days.

23.10-1816 CR noted on Colchester area services 6/6A; 3033 CF noted on a Maldon (MN) depot service 31 working.

26.10-Southend Transport 248 and 249 operated the Miracle Bus contract service, whilst 333/4/5/6 were hired by Southend Transport to Venturer Travel for flight diversion work at Gatwick Airport.

27.10-3055/60, 3123 (all SE), 3059 BE, 3077/82, 3106/8/10/1/25 (all CF) and 3078 CR operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Witham; Southend Transport 244 operated the Miracle Bus contract service, and with effect from this date Van Hool Astromega's are again rostered for this service thus ending the use of Leyland Fleetline's and luggage vans.

28.10-1552 DT noted on service 80 (and again on 29.10, 30.10 and 4.11), whilst 1554 CN was noted at Colchester (CR) depot on this date.

2.11-Southend Transport 243 noted on the Miracle Bus contract service.

3.11-3059/60, 3123 (all SE), 3077, 3108/10/3/25 (all CF) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Witham; Southend Transport 242 operated a similar service between Hockley and Wickford, whilst 245 was noted on the Miracle Bus contract service.

5.11-Yorkshire Traction 1 (UET 1S) was garaged overnight at Colchester (CR) depot.

6.11-1554 CN observed on services 74 and 119.

8.11-3115 CR noted in service at Colchester, but continuing to carry Braintree (BE) depot allocation plates; Ipswich Borough Transport 65 (DPV 65D) noted on hire to Carter's Coach Services, and in use on the stage service from East Bergholt to Colchester, a service normally operated by former Eastern National Bristol RELH6G coach 1400 (PWC344K).

9.11-Southend Transport 246 noted on the Miracle Bus contract service, with 247 noted on the following day.

11.11-1123 CR observed on service 83A.

13.11-3105 SD noted on services 31 and 152.

15.11-3128 DE observed on service 58A.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORTNew Vehicles

New Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. double-deck vehicles 41/2 have been re-registered C41/2 HHJ, with their previous registrations C41/2 HPU being voided prior to the vehicles entering service. Both vehicles have now entered regular service, and during late-October and early-November they have been noted on services 1/1A, 3, 5/5A, 7/7A and 74A. 41 was noted in Osborne Street on driver familiarisation work on October 21st, whilst 42 was first noted on service 7 on the same date. Both vehicles

only display final destination blinds, with no passing point blinds, and 42 at least is fitted with public address equipment on both decks. Late news is that one of the vehicles was involved in an accident in Colchester on November 15th.

General

News of the Bristol REEL6L's is that 16 (YWC 16L) had returned to service by October 29th, whilst 24 (SWC 24K) is still out of service at the Magdalen Street depot. Similar vehicle 25 (SWC 25K) is the first Bristol REEL6L to be repainted in the new livery style, although the vehicle is currently out of service whilst a new engine unit is fitted. 26 (SWC 26K) was unusually noted on all day service on services 4/4A on October 28th.

Leyland Atlantean 49 (YWC649F) is proving to be very reliable and there are no immediate plans to withdraw the vehicle from service. It was noted in use on services 1/1A (November 4th), 4A (November 6th), 5/5A (October 29th, November 1st/11th). Similar vehicle 50 (AVX 50G), which has been withdrawn from service, remains at the Magdalen Street depot yard, and is being retained as a source of spares.

Former Tyne & Wear PTE Leyland Atlantean 51 (MVK538R) has now had its Bus and Coach Council slogan 'We'd all miss the bus' removed, and it now carries a wrap-round advertisement for Radio Orwell, mainly with blue signwriting, and it was noted back in service by October 28th. Similar vehicles 52 and 53 have been noted on a variety of services recently; 52 was noted on services 1/1A on October 17th and on service 5 on October 4th, whilst 53 was also noted on services 1/1A on October 16th/28th and November 5th, and on service 3 on October 28th and November 5th.

Repaints into the new livery style have been speeded up during recent weeks by sending several Leyland Atlantean's to Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft. 62 (NNO 62P) and 66 (NNO 66P) were completed during October and early-November respectively, whilst 74 (TPU 74R) was noted leaving for Lowestoft on November 8th. Leyland Atlantean 63 (NNO 63P) has also been repainted in the new livery style (by Colchester B.T.), and this vehicle was noted back in service on October 23rd with a wrap round advertisement for the Millers Motors (Daihatsu and Mazda dealers). 62 (NNO 62P) also has a painted advertisement for Anglian Windows.

Other news of Leyland Atlantean's is that 65 (NNO 65P), 85 (MEV 85V), 87 (MEV 87V), 89 (RVW 89W) and 90 (RVW 90W) were all out of service during early-November, whilst similar vehicle 64 (NNO 64P) has been fitted with a new engine by Eastern National Engineering, and it was returned to Colchester during mid-November. Further to the information published in last month's news sheet 57 (JHK497N), 63 (NNO 63P), 84 (MEV 84V) and 86 (MEV 86V) were noted back in service by November 12th, October 30th, October 20th and October 21st respectively. Leyland Atlantean 75 (TPU 75R) also now carries a painted advertisement, which covers the 75th anniversary signwriting.

Leyland Atlantean 60 (JHK500N) strayed from its normal workings on services 6/6A recently; it was noted on service 5A on October 16th, on service 7 on November 2nd/8th, on service 7A on November 5th and on service 74A on November 2nd.

No further work has been carried out on Leyland Leopard coach 101 (DHK101T), which remains out of service at the Magdalen Street depot with its engine removed (see NS258).

Former London Transport DMS 1988 (KUC988P) had left the Magdalen Street depot by November 2nd; it is understood that this vehicle is owned by the Post Office Corporation, and is scheduled for conversion into a publicity vehicle.

A rail replacement service was operated in Colchester during the afternoon of November 1st, involving Leyland Atlantean's 63 (NNO 63P) and 88 (RVW 88W).

On Sunday, November 10th, during the Remembrance Day service, services were diverted in the town centre via some very narrow streets, including Long Wyre Street and Culver Street East, with buses running from west to east along Culver Street East instead of the normal one-way direction from east to west. Eastern National's Leyland National 1718 (NEV675M) sustained some slight accident damage whilst negotiating some tight manoeuvres in Culver Street East during this period.

Full timetables for revised services 1/1A and 3/3A (see NS259) are contained in the Essex County Council timetable amendment leaflet (No. 1) (see under Publicity News above). A new service numbered 1B is also introduced from Ambrose Avenue (Worthington Way) to Longridge Park (Kingfisher Close) on Weekdays, and this service

will operate direct to Longridge Park via Bromley Road. At the time of writing, however, these diversions and extensions had not been introduced as new roads are not yet complete.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

Delivery of the first new Van Hool Astromega double-deck coach has now occurred, and full details are as follows :-

256 C256FHJ Van Hool Astromega TD824 YE282400NOM114053 CH57/27F 14053

This vehicle was delivered on November 1st, and it entered service on November 9th. Members will note that this is the vehicle that was exhibited at the first International Bus & Coach Exhibition at Earls Court during September, and this therefore corrects the information published in NS258 suggesting that the vehicle was 257.

Re-built and re-bodied Leyland Leopard coach 254 was officially delivered to Southend Transport during October, but the vehicle is still being prepared for service (see also NS259). The registration number of this vehicle will be published as soon as details become available.

Work on the refurbishment of the chassis of Leyland Leopard 212 (CHA443K) has now been completed, and the chassis has now been sent to Berkhof's factory at Valkenswaard, Netherlands to receive its new coach body. This vehicle will be numbered 255 upon completion.

Vehicles On Hire

The Maidstone Borough Council Bedford YMT 266 (WKE 66S) was on hire to Southend Transport from October 24th to November 5th, and details, where available, are as follows :-

266 WKE 66S Bedford YMT ————— Duple B61F 720/2913 New -/78

This vehicle was on hire to replace Leyland Tiger coach 250 (A250SVW) which was hired to The Maidstone Borough Council from October 24th to October 27th. 266 (WKE 66S) was noted in use on services 4B, 18, 23 and 23A, although it was last used in service on November 2nd.

General

Leyland Leopard coach 347 (XWX184S) is currently at Eastern National Engineering's Central Works at Chelmsford, where it is being fitted with a replacement 0680 engine unit.

Leyland Leopard coach 213 (LAK303W) is currently at the British Leyland depot at Aldenham, where it is being fitted with a Tiger engine.

Leyland Leopard coach 335 (WR0435S) was used on Culture Bus sightseeing duties in London on October 8th or 9th.

An extremely unusual working occurred on October 31st when a Van Hool Astromega (possibly 245) was used on service 12.

A former Parks of Hamilton Leyland Leopard PSU5C/4R/Van Hool C57F coach MDS242V is currently at the Tickfield Avenue works. It was delivered on October 16th by Caledonia Coach Sales and Services Ltd., Glasgow (dealer), initially for MOT work, although it has been reported that after this work has been completed it may be hired or possibly acquired by Southend Transport.

Finally, it is believed that the dealer in the Latchingdon area who supplied former Southend Transport Daimler Fleetline 356 (WJN356J) to Ford, Althorne is Banyard, Latchingdon (additional information to NS258 - see under Withdrawn Vehicles). It has not yet been ascertained whether the vehicle is being prepared for service by Ford, Althorne (see also NS259).

THE NATIONAL OMNIBUS AND TRANSPORT CO. LTD.

Details of a vehicle disposal for a former National Omnibus & Transport Co. Ltd.

vehicle have recently become available, as follows :-

- 2257 (NM 1336) - Dennis-OT18/18RO (ex. Road Motors Ltd., Luton, 4/25). The original lower deck bodywork has recently been discovered at a caravan camp at Heybridge, having been used as a holiday home since ca. 1930. Current owner is Wells, Goldhanger, who intends to restore the vehicle as an exhibit at a proposed agricultural and engineering museum. A photograph of the vehicle was published in the Maldon & Burnham Standard on November 14th.
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EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

Initial Disposals

- 3014 (SMS 40H) - Still at Central Works, Chelmsford, 11/85, and has not yet been cannibalised and broken up for scrap (see also NS259).

Subsequent Disposals

1954 - 1964 numbering scheme

- 436 (606 JPU) - Still on premises of Thomas, Upper Llandwrog, 8/85, but now derelict. (additional information to NS247).
- - - - -
- 408 (YHK725F) - Withdrawn on premises of Thomas, Upper Llandwrog, by 8/85.
- 420 (GVW982H) - Still in use as a caravan by unknown owner at Willington, and noted at Torquay, 9/85.
- 9445 (XVW633L) - Wilby, Hibaldstow, ex. P.G. Travel, Middlewich. Noted on Wilby premises in 10/84 and 1/85, and entered service 8/85.
- 1356 (MOO 177) - Still with 5th Bradford South (Horton Grange) Scout Group, 4/85.
- 1405 (VHK178L) - St. James Church, Great Sankey (N-PSV), 3/85, ex. Gwent Probation & After Care Service, Pontypool. Seating capacity now quoted as C24FL. (see also NS256/9).
- 1512 (FVX614H) - Still with Telling, Byfleet, 11/85, and noted at premises of dealer, Purfleet after refurbishment. Now painted in dark blue and cream livery. (additional information to NS252/7).
- 1546 (SVW274K) - Being used at Colchester Institute of Higher Education, Colchester by Essex County Council (Education Department) (additional information to NS256/7/8).
- 1550 (WNO539L) - Ulsterbus Ltd., Belfast, 795, 8/85, ex. Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 795. Entered service on September 9th on Londonderry City services, in Ulsterbus livery. (see also NS259).
- 1551 (WNO540L) - Ulsterbus Ltd., Belfast, 796, 8/85, ex. Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 796. Entered service on September 9th on Londonderry City services, in Ulsterbus livery. (see also NS259).
- 2386 (WNO 484) - Is named 'Madam Adeline Patti' with South Wales Transport Co. Ltd. (correction to NS259).
- 2487 (76 JNO) - Was exported to British Promotions, Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A., and was hired to the Virginia Government for the 1976 Bi-Centennial celebrations. (additional information to NS160 Supplement).
- 2494 (1839 F) - Dealer, Barnsley, 2/76.
- 2709 (89 TVX) - Dealer, Barnsley, 2/76.
- 2841 (MVX878C) - Still with Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd., Sible Hedingham, L101, 10/85. (see also NS204/14).
- 2857 (OPU822D) - Still with Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd., Sible Hedingham, L102, 10/85. (see also NS204/14).
- 2923 (AEV817F) - Gone from dealer, Sherburn, 8/85. (see also NS258).
- 3013 (SMS 39H) - Now fitted with removable L-plates by Crosville Motor Services Ltd., DVG560, for occasional use on driver training work.

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), V.J. Cooper (M128), R. Delahoy (M180), P.W. Harvey (M219), J. Salmon (M262), J.S. Wilby (M298), S.D. Barham (M313), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ransom (M421), G.G. Toon (M452), C.D. Sigston (M523), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), D.A. Coulson (M568), S.J. Barnes (M576) and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for contributions to the December news sheet is Wednesday, December 11th.