

Exact Fare

By WILLIAM DEIZ

Starting this Monday, December 14th, passengers on Tri-Met buses will be required to have with them the exact fare necessary for their bus trips. The Tri-Met board voted this week to make the experimental "ready fare" system—being tried out the past few months in the Portland area—a permanent fixture of the line to, officials say, "Aid in stopping robberies of bus drivers."

A significant fact is that Tri-Met tested the system before it decided to adopt it. Other cities have found themselves—much to the chagrin of tourists or of locals who don't often use mass transit—-with new "Anti-Theft" systems installed without prior trial, and with much resulting inconvenience to the public.

Of significance too, in the Portland plan which Tri-Met General Manager Tom King says has the backing of 100% of the company's drivers—are the provisions made not only for those who don't have the correct fare, but also for those who, for some reason or another, get on the bus with money at all.

In these "emergency" situations, King says, the driver will issue what amounts to a sort of "charge slip". The passenger will be given a slip which indicates he owes the company for one bus fare.

King says it will be up to the honesty of the individual to ensure the company is paid back...and he says in other cities where the system is employed most people DO turn out to be honest.

Goodwill Ambassador Named

Gail Fisher, Emmy Award-winning star of the CBS-TV show, "Mannix", has been named Goodwill Ambassador for the 1971 National Easter Seal Campaign.

The announcement was made by Sumner G. Whittier, executive director of the National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, at its Chicago headquarters.

Miss Fisher has taped TV and radio spots and will make personal appearances during the 1971 appeal which opens March 1 and continues through April 11, Easter Sunday.

LEADING ROLE

As Goodwill Ambassador, Miss Fisher will play a leading volunteer role in enlisting financial support for Easter Seal rehabilitation and other services that annually aid some quarter of a million crippled children and adults through 2,500 facilities in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Miss Fisher was born into a low-income family in Potters Crossing, N.J., often referred to as "the worst rural slum on the eastern seaboard".

"My mother pinched pennies, made soap and bought three-day-old bread and rolls because they were a few cents cheaper," she recalls.

She dreamed while still in high school of a career in show business and it actually was attained through the beauty contest route.

BEAUTY WINNER

She became "Miss Transit," "Miss Black New Jersey," "Miss Press Photography," "Miss Elkdome" and won a trophy from New Jersey's Governor Meyner for "Encouragement of Youth."

The attention led to a scholarship, one of four given to Negro youths to develop their talents in any disciplined direction of their own choosing, to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City.

Later came off-Broadway parts, guest appearances on "The Defenders" and other TV shows and in doing commercials Miss Fisher became the first Negro to do a national TV commercial-with-lines.

In 1964 she married her personal manager, John Levy and took time off from show business to begin raising two daughters. In 1967 she was persuaded to resume her career and landed the choice role of Peggy Fair, Girl Friday to "Mannix."

This provision makes a somewhat bitter pill a little easier to swallow.

So if, by chance, you should happen to forget your purse or wallet, and you don't discover it until you board the bus you can, according to King, continue your trip.

Hopefully individual drivers will see to it that this "emergency provision" is truly company policy.

And if you should have money but not the correct change, the driver will take it - put it in the coin box and give you a "credit slip" for the amount owed you. When you turn the slip into the company - you get your change.

This policy would end the old "joke" about the passenger with money who boards a bus late at night but doesn't have the correct change. When the driver discovers this a few blocks later he summarily kicks the passenger off the bus where, the joke goes, the passenger is mugged by a guy who used to rob buses.

Under the Portland plan the drivers don't have to worry about carrying extra cash (outside of the locked coin box) on their buses; there are no more lines of people waiting in the rain while the driver changes somebody's \$20-dollar bill; and, hopefully, your own journey turns out to be a little safer too.

Small Gift

"The best gifts come in small packages," is sage advice for smart Santas. And, it's a neat prophecy for 1971's small electric appliances.

In the kitchen there's a dizzying pace of activity. One new coffeemaker grinds coffee, brews it and then keeps it piping hot.

Gift toasters pop up four slices at just the degree of toastiness requested.

Food blenders that mix, blend, chop and mince-making light of the most elaborately planned meals—would be welcome helper.

One of the most appreciated easy-does-it gifts could be the portable mixer.

A new egg cooker not only boils eggs to perfection—it's poach-perfect, too. Or, the automatic fondue maker could be the gift success.

Warming trays to keep food hot, ice-crushers to keep drinks cold and speedy-slicing electric knives are some of the appliances most likely to turn up under the tree.

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