

# The Pacific Bus Museum From Hobby to Formal Museum



BY RON MEDAGLIA

Photos courtesy of Pacific Bus Museum

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In recent years the Pacific Bus Museum has been making a transition from a bus hobbyist group to a more formal museum operation. This photo was taken at their Annual Open House in Fremont, California in 2012. They recently acquired the building in Fremont as their permanent home. The first bus in line here is a 1945 GM PD3302, the oldest operating bus in the museum's fleet.

## The Early Years

In the early 1980s, a group of bus enthusiasts in southern California formed the West Coast Motorcoach Museum, a loosely knit organization in which many of the members owned their own buses. As time went on, the group began acquiring buses for the museum and new members joined from other areas in the state. By the late 1980s a group of members in the San Francisco bay area sought to have the museum move to northern California where it was thought it could become a more cohesive organization. They were aided by Museum Secretary Stephen Schwartzwald who was instrumental in moving the Motorcoach Museum to the bay area and starting the Pacific Bus Museum.

The Pacific Bus Museum was founded in 1989 as a successor to the West Coast Motorcoach Museum. By 1991 Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of California as a non-profit corporation and the museum was granted tax-exempt status by the IRS as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation. Its first president was Richard Twinning, an avid bus collector and owner of Scenic Hyway Tours, a San Francisco tour and charter bus operator.

## The 1990s

The early 1990s were formative years for the PBM and later became a time of steady growth of the museum. The museum hosted a number of historical bus excursions each year tracing the routes of bus

companies no longer in existence. This was accomplished with the assistance of public transit agencies that succeeded these private companies. In 1992 the museum hosted the California State Bus Bash in San Jose, California. It was one of the largest Bus Bashes in the number of seated coaches on display. During

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