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## **Guide to the Key System Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1960, bulk 1941-1949**

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## Guide to the Key System Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1960, bulk 1941-1949

### Collection Number: NS4175

Harmer E. Davis Transportation Library  
Institute of Transportation Studies

University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California

Guide Written By:

Regina Kammer

Date Completed:

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### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Key System newspaper clippings

**Date (inclusive):** 1941-1960,

**Date (bulk):** , bulk 1941-1949

**Collection Number:** NS4175

**Creators :** Key System Transit Lines (Calif.)

**Extent:** Number of containers: 30Linear feet: 15

**Repository:** Institute of Transportation Studies Library

Berkeley, California 94720-1720

**Abstract:** Newspaper clippings collected by the Key System from September 1941 to July 1960 covering San Francisco Bay Area transportation, labor union, and urban planning issues, and Key System matters. Clippings are from various Bay Area newspapers including the Oakland Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, the Argonaut, Richmond Independent, and others.

**Languages Represented:** Collection materials are in English

**Physical Location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Key System Newspaper Clippings, NS4175, Harmer E. Davis Transportation Library, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

### Alternate Forms Available

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

### Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Key System Transit Lines (Calif.)--History

Local transit--California--East Bay--History

Street-railroads--California--East Bay--History

Electric railroads--California--East Bay--History

Buses--California--East Bay--History

Clippings.

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### **Acquisition Information**

Donated to Harmer E. Davis Transportation Library in the early 1970s by the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, the successor to the Key System Transit Lines.

### **Accruals**

No additions are expected.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Regina Kammer, Paul Hernandez, David Zlotnick in 2005.

### **Organizational History**

In 1902, after having consolidated East Bay streetcar lines for almost a decade, Francis Marion "Borax" Smith formed the San Francisco, Oakland & San Jose Railway. This company provided ferry service from San Francisco to a ferry pier in Berkeley, then to points in the East Bay cities of Oakland, Berkeley, and Alameda via electric trains. The Berkeley ferry terminal was at the end of a three-mile long wooden trestle extending into the San Francisco Bay. The corporate emblem was in the shape of a key formed by the terminal, trestle, and the three East Bay cities, hence the system was called the "Key Route". The first train began running on October 26, 1903. Smith continued to create additional streetcar routes chiefly dictated by his real estate holdings in the East Bay.

In 1912, the Key Route was reorganized as the San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Railways with two divisions: the Key Division, which ran the transbay ferries and trains, and the Traction Division, which ran the streetcars. The whole organization was also known as the Key System. In 1913, as a result of the collapse of a web of complicated financial dealings, San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Railways was taken over by a committee of bankers representing the money lenders, and by 1923 it was sold to bondholders. The company was reorganized as the Key System Transit Co. on January 1, 1924.

The Key Route began as a streetcar system but had incorporated buses on two feeder routes through Oakland's Montclair and Mills College districts by May 1921. Bus service continued and was expanded under the Key System Transit Co. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Key System acquired independently-operated bus lines, chiefly in Oakland.

In 1930 and several times again until 1942, the company was reorganized. Key System Ltd. ran the transbay rail operation in 1930, and was changed to Oakland Terminal Railroad Co. in 1935 as a freight company. Key Terminal Railway Ltd. ran the ferries in 1930, and after a name change to Key System in 1935, it ran both the transbay rail and ferry services. East Bay Motor Coach Lines Ltd. ran the bus system in 1930, but was taken over in 1934 by East Bay Street Railways Ltd. which had been running the streetcars since 1930. The latter was renamed East Bay Transit Co. in 1936. On January 1, 1942, East Bay Transit Co. was merged into Key System. In 1946, the company was renamed Key System Transit Lines under its new owner National City Lines.

After the completion of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the Key System provided transbay bus service (May 9, 1937) and rail service (January 16, 1939). Ferry service was eliminated when rail service began in 1939.

During the 1930s, streetcars in the East Bay were gradually replaced by buses. On November 28, 1948, the last streetcar went out of operation. By 1958, transbay rail service across the Bay Bridge across the Bay Bridge was replaced by buses.

During the late 1940s and the 1950s there were labor disputes between Key System and its employees. A strike was held during most of 1953. Fare increases also caused relations with the public to deteriorate. These events helped fuel the movement toward public ownership of the transit system.

In 1955, the California State Legislature passed an act authorizing the creation of the state's first Special Transit Service District in the western portions of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. On November 6, 1956, East Bay citizens voted to establish the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District. Initial funding for the District was provided in 1959 through a voter-approved bond of \$16.5 million. This money allowed AC Transit to acquire the Key System in 1960. AC Transit began its bus operations on October 1, 1960.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection is comprised of newspaper clippings collected by the Key System from September 1941 to July 1960 covering San Francisco Bay Area transportation, labor union, and urban planning issues, and Key System matters. Clippings are from various Bay Area newspapers including the Oakland Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, the Argonaut, Richmond Independent, and others.

The clippings are pasted onto pages of bound books (Sept. 1941-July 1946), binders (Aug. 1946; Oct. 1946; June 1-15, 1949; July 16-Aug. 31, 1949; Jan. 1950; March 1-April 15, 1950; 1953), and manila file folders secured by brads or string (rest of collection). Collection also includes one binder of press clippings from Richmond newspapers dated March 1945-July 1946.

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Missing: Sept. 1946; June 16-30, 1948; Sept. 1-15, 1948; Oct. 1-15, 1948; Dec. 16-31, 1948; Jan. 1949; Oct. 1949; Nov. 16-30, 1949; May 1950; Sept.-Dec. 1950; March 1951-Aug. 1953; Dec. 1957-Dec. 1959.

Adhesive used to glue clippings to paper has deteriorated and some clippings have become loose or have completely separated from paper.

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Box 1	<b>September 1941-February 1942</b>
Box 2	<b>March-June 1942</b>
Box 3	<b>July-October 1942</b>
Box 4	<b>November-December 1942</b>
Box 5	<b>January-December 1943</b>
Box 6	<b>January-February 1944</b>
Box 7	<b>March-April 1944</b>
Box 8	<b>May-June 1944</b>
Box 9	<b>June 1944</b>
Box 10	<b>July-September 1944</b>
Box 11	<b>October 1944</b>
Box 12	<b>November-December 1944</b>
Box 13	<b>January-February 1945</b>
Box 14	<b>March-April 1945</b>
Box 15	<b>May-July 1945</b>
Box 16	<b>August-September 1945</b>
Box 17	<b>October-December 1945</b>
Box 18	<b>January-February 1946</b>
Box 19	<b>March-April 1946</b>
Box 20	<b>May-July 1946</b>
Carton 21, Folder 1	<b>Richmond Press Clippings March 1945-July 1946</b>
Carton 21, Folder 2	<b>August 1946</b>
Carton 21, Folder 3	<b>October 1946</b>
Carton 21, Folder 4	<b>November 1946</b>
Carton 21, Folder 5	<b>December 1946</b>
Carton 21, Folder 6	<b>January 1-20, 1947</b>
Carton 21, Folder 7	<b>January 21-31, 1947</b>
Carton 21, Folder 8	<b>February 1-14, 1947</b>
Carton 21, Folder 9	<b>February 15-28, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 1	<b>March 1-15, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 2	<b>March 16-31, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 3	<b>April 1-15, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 4	<b>April 16-30, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 5	<b>May 1-15, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 6	<b>May 16-31, 1947</b>

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Carton 22, Folder 7	<b>June 1-10, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 8	<b>June 11-20, 1947</b>
Carton 22, Folder 9	<b>June 21-30, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 1	<b>July 1-15, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 2	<b>July 15-31, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 3	<b>August 1-31, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 4	<b>September 1-30, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 5	<b>October 1-31, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 6	<b>November 1-30, 1947</b>
Carton 23, Folder 7	<b>December 1-31, 1947</b>
Carton 24, Folder 1	<b>January 1-31, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 2	<b>February 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 3	<b>February 16-29, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 4	<b>March 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 5	<b>March 16-31, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 6	<b>April 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 7	<b>April 16-30, 1948</b>
Carton 24, Folder 8	<b>May 1-14, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 1	<b>May 16-31, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 2	<b>June 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 3	<b>July 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 4	<b>July 16-31, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 5	<b>August 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 6	<b>August 17-31, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 7	<b>September 16-30, 1948</b>
Carton 25, Folder 8	<b>October 16-31, 1948</b>
Carton 26, Folder 1	<b>November 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 26, Folder 2	<b>November 16-30, 1948</b>

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Carton 26, Folder 3	<b>December 1-15, 1948</b>
Carton 26, Folder 4	<b>February 1949</b>
Carton 26, Folder 5	<b>March 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 26, Folder 6	<b>March 16-31, 1949</b>
Carton 26, Folder 7	<b>April 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 1	<b>April 16-30, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 2	<b>May 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 3	<b>May 16-31, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 4	<b>June 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 5	<b>June 17-30, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 6	<b>July 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 7	<b>July 16-31, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 8	<b>August 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 9	<b>August 16-31, 1949</b>
Carton 27, Folder 10	<b>September 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 28, Folder 1	<b>September 16-30, 1949</b>
Carton 28, Folder 2	<b>November 1-15, 1949</b>
Carton 28, Folder 3	<b>December 1-31, 1949</b>
Carton 28, Folder 4	<b>January 1-15, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 5	<b>January 16-31, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 6	<b>February 1-28, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 7	<b>March 1-15, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 8	<b>March 16-31, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 9	<b>April 1-15, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 10	<b>April 16-30, 1950</b>
Carton 28, Folder 11	<b>June 1950; some July 1950</b>
Carton 29	<b>September 1953-November 1957</b>
Carton 30, Folder 1	<b>June 1-15, 1950</b>
Carton 30, Folder 2	<b>June 15-30, 1950</b>

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Carton 30, Folder 3	<b>July 1-31, 1950</b>
Carton 30, Folder 4	<b>August 1-31, 1950</b>
Carton 30, Folder 5	<b>January 1951</b>
Carton 30, Folder 6	<b>February 1951</b>
Carton 30, Folder 7	<b>January 1960</b>
Carton 30, Folder 8	<b>February 1960</b>
Carton 30, Folder 9	<b>March 1960</b>
Carton 30, Folder 10	<b>April 1960</b>
Carton 30, Folder 11	<b>May 1960</b>
Carton 30, Folder 12	<b>June 1960</b>
Carton 30, Folder 13	<b>July 1960</b>