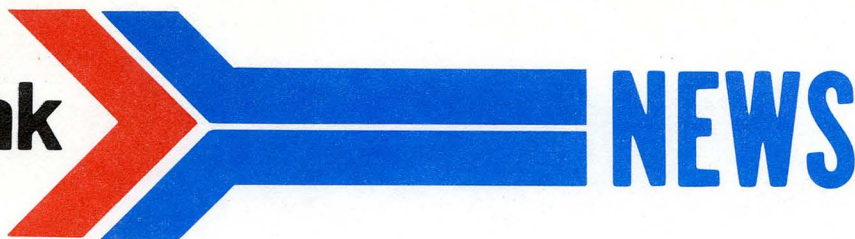


Amtrak



National Railroad Passenger Corporation
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Washington, D.C. 20024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 1974

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA -- Rail passenger service returned to the San Joaquin Valley today after almost a three-year absence.

Amtrak's "San Joaquin" left the San Francisco Bay area for an inaugural run to Bakersfield with over 100 state and local officials and the news media on board. Special ceremonies were scheduled at stops along the 312-mile run.

Regular revenue service begins in both directions between Oakland and Bakersfield on Thursday, March 6.

Bus connections will be provided between Bakersfield and Los Angeles, with buses meeting the trains and providing direct service to and from Los Angeles and Pasadena.

At Oakland, trainside bus service will be provided to and from San Francisco's East Bay Terminal.

Also at Oakland, connections will be provided with Amtrak's Coast Starlight, serving northern California, Portland and Seattle.

The San Joaquin--trains 710 southbound and 711 northbound--bring Amtrak service to the San Joaquin Valley which has been without rail passenger service since May 1971. They will provide coach and dining service; through checked hand baggage service is available.

Service will also be provided for the first time at Martinez in California's populous Contra Costa County.

(more)

Southbound, the San Joaquin departs Oakland daily at 10 a.m., Martinez at 10:50, Stockton at 12:15 p.m., Riverbank (Modesto) at 12:45 p.m., Merced at 1:25 p.m., Fresno at 2:35 p.m., and Hanford at 3:10 before its scheduled arrival in Bakersfield at 4:30 p.m.

The connecting bus departs Bakersfield at 4:45 p.m. and arrives in Pasadena at 6:45 p.m. and Los Angeles at 7:15 p.m.

Northbound, the connecting bus departs Union Terminal in Los Angeles at 8:15 a.m., Pasadena at 8:45 a.m., and arrives in Bakersfield at 10:45 a.m.

The train departs Bakersfield's Santa Fe station daily at 11:30 a.m., Hanford at 12:50 p.m., Fresno at 1:30, Merced at 2:40, Riverbank (Modesto) at 3:20, Stockton at 3:50, Martinez at 5:05, and is scheduled to arrive in Oakland at 6 p.m.

Between Oakland and Port Chicago, the trains will operate over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad. From Port Chicago to Stockton and south, they will operate via tracks of the Santa Fe and will use Santa Fe stations.

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