

For House Bill 2717: I am a retired Greyhound driver having served many hours and miles across most of the Western U.S. states . Served in some areas where it would be a good idea to have an armed guard on every trip to soft nice quiet runs where boredom trips were usual and quiet. I am telling some tales of my experiences with the rougher side of human nature. I was a driver for some 32 years at time of retirement. I have many stories of misbehaved people, these two are examples. I've not been attacked with injuries but often wondered which derelict was going to do it.

Not unusual to board many passengers from the start of a run and who will be with the driver all day or night composing of some 10 hours. So a driver gets to know some quirks and pleasures of some people while driving in dark or light conditions, freeways, two lane roads, rough mountain roads or crooked portions of 101 along cliffs.

Incident do happen and they happen regularly on some runs. Some runs are noted for troubles due to areas they cover or are going into.

Incident #1 Seattle to Portland Day run

Leaving Seattle in early afternoon I had almost a full load out of Seattle. Stops to be made at Sea Tac, Tacoma, Olympia, Chehalis, Longview, Vancouver and into Portland. Time roughly 4:30 hours. At each stop serviced driver responsible for release of passengers , baggage claims at side of bus, on load and off load of freight and board any new passengers to continue South bound.

Incident of one black passenger wearing heavy dark sunglasses wouldbus at every stop watching me do my job. Getting close at times while I was getting luggage out of bins below I had to watch where he was. No one was asked to leave bus at Sea Tac, only loading passengers(Paxes) and luggage. This man would get close enough to me that I asked him to reboard or he would lose his seat and be complaining about his loss. He kept following me close. Next stop only passenger getting off were deboarded and this sun glassed individual did same thing here. No smoke break here, we are moving on. He kept following me around as I loaded bag cart from depot and return bag cart to depot. Watched me load new paxes, and again reprimanded for leaving his seat vacant.

At Olympia all paxes given 10 minute break . Mr sunglasses kept following me around,saying nothing but I was getting leery that he was up to something. Did he have a gun or knife and was waiting for opportunity to use it on me? I watched where I was between him and me at all times.

At Chehalis another 10 minute break to paxes. Again individual followed me in and out of depot area and generally in the way of my carts to and from bus.

At Vancouver no one off but some pa were gathered here to go into Portland. All paxes to remain on bus, we are loading and leaving immediately . Mr Sunglasses got off to observe and be in my way. I then asked to see his ticket. His ticket was destined to Sacramento. I told him here in Vancouver that he would not be riding the bus to Sac tonight. His actions were above what normal paxes do when asked to do simple things like stay on bus when asked and out of the way while carts and bags were being handled. Perhaps when he got his act together and a rest in Portland he could continue on

another schedule tomorrow. I warned him that my relief driver will be warned of the problem and not take him further tonight. At Portland my run ended as a round trip Portland Seattle, Seattle Portland. Bus continued with another driver at Portland to Sac without Mr sunglasses.

Next afternoon after refreshing hours I had run from Portland to Redding Ca This is about 11 hour run with stops at various towns and some breaks down the road. Wouldn't you know it, after all night and half the day the very first passenger to climb aboard a new bus was Mr Sunglasses. Yes, he stayed in depot all night being a general nuisance at the 24 hour station in Portland. I hope his attitude changed.

Very first stop was Salem Or one hour away and he was on my tail like yesterdays actions. I asked him if he remembered our last nights words. He thought he did. I said keep up your foot work and you won't be going far at all today. As captain of this ship I command some respect on orders so simple. Stay seated until given break time.

It didn't work. Stops at Junction City ,same M.O. Stop at Eugene was break time and his M.O not improved. Roseburg ,stay seated folks we are loading up and going. He again followed me off. I'm getting more antsy and watching where I am stepping so he cannot get to me.

Shortly after leaving Roseburg and keeping time on I-5 a pax came up telling me about a strange man in middle of bus acting weird and talking to himself. Asking if it was the sun-glassed black guy the answer was yes.

Getting on P.A. I asked the guy to come forward. He rushed forward and approached me trying to place his hand on steering wheel. It was going to be an attempt to dump the bus I feared.

I used my right foot to push him into doorway steps where he grabbed metal assist bar to break his fall, while I braked rather swiftly into the pull off area of I-5 just short of Myrtle Creek. We don't serve this town except today. I told him my next stop is his last stop and there isn't any buses into that town until tomorrow. With that he withdrew a Gillette safety razor blade of which I thought he was going to use on me. I said,what's the weapon for? He said "I suppose you want this from me?" Drop it on the floor and do it now. He dropped it on dash near my door handle to entrance of bus. Now go sit down until I get to next town (Myrtle Creek) where I wheeled in parking bus so I could drop him off after I called from inside a gas station for local PD to come get him. I figured while parked he would follow me off. He didn't. I asked station crew to call 911 for me,describing individual and he was getting off permanently here. PD was on scene shortly. I didn't see Mr Sunglasses leave bus but I did see him about one block down the street,pointed out to PD that's him, keep him off bus ,I don't care what you charge him with, but he is a menace on highway looking for trouble. Had razor blade of which I had in hand now, and didn't know if he had any other weapons on him. Cop gave chase.

Bus was ready to leave as I left engine running while station employee was calling PD. Now returning to bus paxes were excited to tell me the fun I missed. The culprit shortly after I left came up to drivers seat and attempted to drive bus away with paxes on board. He didn't know the operations to release the brakes and put tyranny into drive state. He couldn't get throttle to work because I had placed bus in high idle which locks the throttle into position and can only be released by a switch which has to be off in order to release park brake. Another pax in rear came forward, a wrestling match ensued and the culprit was thrown out of the seat and shoved down the stairs by the hero who came from the

back of bus. He barred him from re-entry to inside bus. Suspect then decided the game was over and walked down the street in disgust. I walked to back of bus and thanked the guy for helping as he did. I then informed paxes the guy obviously didn't know how to pull away from curb to drive bus away. The bus just doesn't automatically leave a curb without a few things done first to make it happen. The worst was he rushed me on freeway in attempt to grab steering wheel and 2nd pulled out a razor blade of which I didn't know what he was going to do while traveling at 65mph in freeway traffic. It's alright now, there is only one bus day North and South and when he gets out of jail he can be escorted to bus maybe. Safety first was for me to pull bus off freeway and stop get control over the guy and advise him of my moves. In cases like this it's not a threat anymore when I tell him my intentions. No excuses, it's over when I say this trip is over for your behaviors. No direct assault on me, but real close to dumping the bus on a freeway and the threatening poses shown at every stop along route.

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While on a night run from Portland Or to San Francisco, very light loaded bus I drive some 350 miles stopping at all coastal towns all night into sunrise. I leave schedule at Crescent City Ca for another driver and road report of off and on paxes for next driver. Near the area of Sheridan I was getting ready to stop at RR crossing and noticed a Greyhound bus coming on me fast from my rear view mirrors. Highly unusual to see another South Bound bus and the driver knowing I had to stop at crossing flashed their lights at me which meant, stop; we got a problem area to discuss. The driver had a late pax out of Portland connections and missed me by mere minutes so Greyhound authorized the chase down knowing they could catch me at least by Lincoln City. How nice they didn't have to drive any further than to Sheridan RR Tracks. I got one male going to points south of my route for night. Trade made in a few minutes. Stop at Casino for drop offs and onward to Lincoln City for coffee break time. Once re boarded at Lincoln City next stop is Depoe Bay, then Newport. From there its around a curvy, hilly, two lane cliff hanger road to Florence.

Just after leaving Lincoln City Coffee break the special male transported passenger walked into the bus restroom and locked the door. The red light on door shows in my inside mirror as locked door so someone was inside. I made it to Depoe Bay and while climbing hills to Newport was aware the red light was still on the RR DOOR. I thought someone else had gone in at a later moment so I paid little attention. Lost some paxes at Newport now the bus has less than 15 people going with me all night. Climbing the hills out of Yachats a passenger comes up to tell me a person has been in the Rest Room since Lincoln City, isn't that unusual? I asked him to knock on door and see if he could get answer. He did, got answer and out came our special pax. Higher than a jet aircraft and acting stupid. A crowd began to form. By now I am rounding curves near Sea Lions caves with sheer drop off into ocean on one side, mountains on left side. A pax comes up saying the guy is under the seats barking like a dog and cussing. Told him I have no phone and we got to get to Florence where I can summon help from Fire and PD. The other paxes were playing guard back there in the darkened aisle and I relayed on PA to leave him under the seat. Best place for him until I could get help in about 15 minutes and away we flew down the hill to Florence. I made it to mid Florence pulled over at telephone booth on 22nd street and 101 and called 911. OSP is in bed, the S.O has no shift, but city has one officer on another call. How serious is my situation.?

Well he is probably on heroin or worse, has been high since Lincoln City probably, under a seat guarded by paxes of my bus and I don't know his temperament except he is a dog and a cusser. Looking down the highway I suddenly saw blue lights coming at me. It was city PD. Upon arrival PD asked If I could get the guy out of bus on my own or he would have to do it making it look panicky for paxes.

Re boarding stopped bus I went to mid portion of bus and gently talked the dog out from under the seat. It took some maneuvering of his large body and free his jacket from snagging under the seat, he got up on both feet and together we staggered out of the bus. Closing the door so he couldn't re enter the bus the PD started to I.D. him at curb when culprit pulled out I.D. showing a ticket to court action in some town for dope charges. When the officer asked him about the charges the guy got feisty and wanted to fight the officer who laid him down and cuffed him . Taken to jail in Florence. I received a telephone call a few days later from Lane County Court for me to show up for Grand Jury investigation on this case. I gave testimony about the safety concerns of lack of our company to allow telephones on buses and having to locate a phone on street, and the risks of safety driving the whole bus load of excited paxes to find phone. The night was dry ,the stars were out, no traffic at 0200 dark a.m and the possibility of hitting either a deer or elk is great at this hour of night. All night drivers on this schedule daily have at some time either hit a deer or elk and damages can be severe. Both to bus and certainly to animals involved.

My concern was that since he was bathroom well over 1.5 hours the chances were that he was loaded on who knows what and which way was he going to come out. Either open the back window and jump out of moving bus or coming out the rest room door and start attacking people in their seats. Who knows what drug he had. Our best instructions in cases like this is to find nearest town ,preferably near a telephone and light and leave them . Of course the Company wants a report on incidences that do happen. Usually we hear nothing more from our cases. It's over when we get the problem abated from our bus. Other cases get drivers in written reprimands,from Company for not using guidelines in stressful situations. We aren't city transit drivers that can drop anyone on a city block along their routes. Our routes on highways not built for pedestrians on or off.

It was some years later that Greyhound came out with telephones for each driver. Later special equipment was added to trace down by route each bus and had a red alert button that we could press and the dispatch could hear the commotions and trace our exact position to have FD and PD find us. Later many of the devices were broken and never repaired and some worked some of the time. Don't have a clue as to current conditions of safety for drivers today. I retired in 2005 of Jan. I was able to avoid using the red button as I had defended whole bus loads enough to estimate where my help would actually come from. I retired within a few months of the new red button safety techniques were in use.

I personally saw drivers who had been beaten up by irate passengers, one robbed of his wallet so he couldn't drive his bus beyond next stop ,I was sent in to replace the robbed driver who never saw the robber coming up the aisle until a knife was at the drivers throat. Giving his wallet at a RR crossing stop

near Oakland Ca driver opened door and suspect ran down tracks face unseen. Had handkerchief over face. I've seen drivers lose their own personal overhead baggage of their very own. Drivers learned to start chaining their bags to locking bars in overhead racks for drivers to use. If your items on dash area aren't bolted down, and taken with you every stop, things come up missing. I once relieved a driver in Modesto Ca who had face beat in by armed robber. Missed some teeth and days of duty he had to pay for his own teeth again. Didn't get much help from Company other than encouragement to come back to duty when healed enough. That driver was mad enough if he had teeth he would of bitten his supervisor who made the comment .

There are 44-55 seats aboard buses. In my career I bet I kicked off my buses enough to fill about 10 busloads of ill mannered people and threatening people. Nothing the company did except to offer the offender a free \$25.00 coupon towards their next trip and a free baggage tag. It was behavior rewarded ,driver guilty of separating individual from trip.