



This, we believe, is the only photo ever taken of the General Motors Titan II prototype intercity bus of 1980 that was released to an outsider. After it was built, GMC decided to exit the parlor bus business. Warren K. Miller was given this photo by GM executives on condition he keep it under wraps. After all these years, it is now time to unveil it. *Warren K. Miller Collection.*

## I Bought the Last GMC Intercity Bus Made

By Warren K. Miller

After 22 years, I think enough time has elapsed to allow a picture of an unknown GMC bus to be seen. It was called the Titan II, and only one prototype was ever built. Its picture appears above.

In 1979 I was president and part owner of Eastshore Lines, a charter bus company in San Francisco. We operated a fleet of 40 General Motors coaches. The GMC sales representative who dealt with us was the late Richard (Dick) Collette.

It was our practice to order one or two new coaches a year to expand and upgrade the fleet. Business had been slow that year so I ordered one bus from GMC on my own account. That December I received a phone call from Dick that GMC was getting out of intercity bus building and would take no new orders, but it would honor those already on the books.

After giving this startling news some thought I wrote a letter to GMC requesting that I receive the very last bus made. This request was granted and in late April the late Dave Sproul, my manager, and I flew to Chicago.

There were were joined by our good friend the late George Krambles, head of the Chicago Transit Authority. We proceeded on to Pontiac and the GMC Truck & Coach plant. There, on April 30, 1980, GMC hosted a luncheon in our honor with a ceremonial cake, and we were given a tour of the plant.

As was my custom, I traveled with a camera, but GMC had a fixed and firm policy: no cameras inside the plant. It was on our tour of the holding yard that we first spied the prototype Titan II, which was to be the replacement for the current model.

The decision to end intercity bus production ended all work

on the Titan II. Thus you hold in your hands on this page a little piece of bus history.

And yes, we picked up the last intercity bus made by GMC, a model H8H-649, serial 233. Sproul and I drove it home, thinking that this bus, too, was a piece of history. □

Taking delivery of the last GM intercity bus on April 30, 1980, were, left to right, Manager Dave Sproul of Eastshore Lines; George Krambles, head of Chicago CTA, Warren K. Miller, and GMC Truck & Coach Director of Public Transportation E. R. Stokel.

*Warren K. Miller Collection.*

