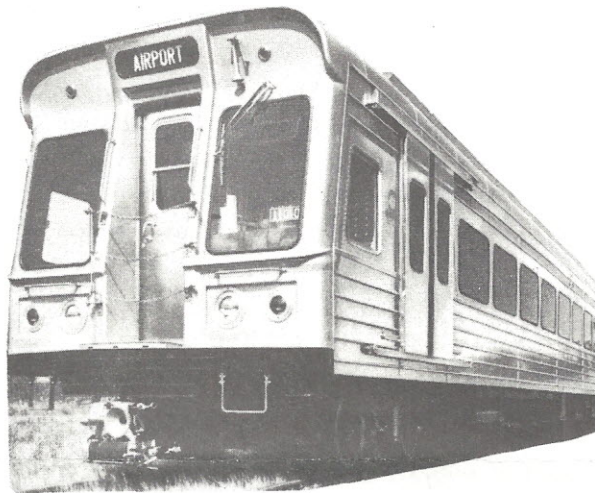
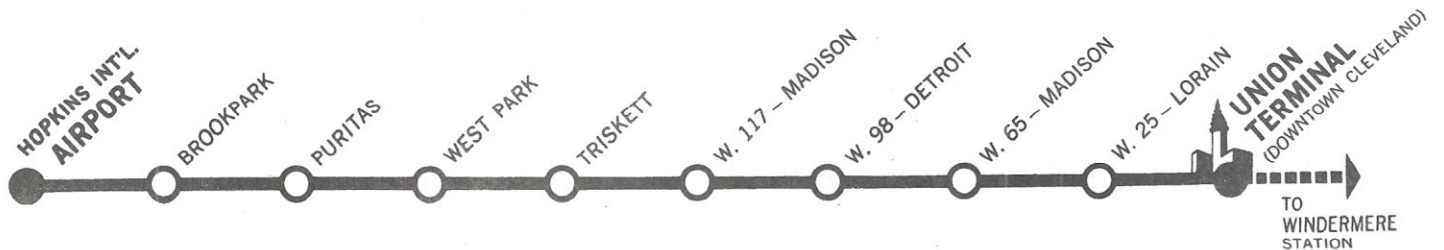


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NEWSFRONT

NOW FLY CTS -- It was one of those typical rainy autumn days in Cleveland, when the force of Lake Erie was felt in a constant wet drizzle; a day not unlike many that had gone before. The rains had been a continuing plague upon construction in 1968, and they were to provide a last bit of hindrance to an already long-overdue civic celebration.

Originally scheduled for much earlier, the opening of the Airport Rapid extension had been finally set for mid-September, when the assembled delegates to the American Transit Association's convention were to participate in a gala inaugural run. Bad weather that hampered final construction stages forced a postponement of 60 days, and the inaugural "flight" was at last pinpointed for 11:30 AM, Friday, November 15, 1968.

Officials, dignitaries and the press had been invited to be on hand at Hopkins Airport for the event, and the new two-track terminal at the field was festooned with posters, bunting and an overlay of martial music. A reviewing stand had been set up on the platform, and spread across one track was a giant paper poster bearing the legend "This breakthrough has been brought to you by the Cleveland Transit System", so arranged that the inaugural train would pierce it as it arrived in the new station for the first time.

Shortly before the crowd was due to arrive, a number of workmen appeared on the scene and began hastily rearranging the chairs on the improvised platform, while several more began the task of moving the inaugural "barrier" to the opposite track. When the train of four cars that was to be the first special rolled in, it was operating on the outbound or wrong track. As the reporters present began querying the CTS officials on hand about the last-minute changes, the final bit of irony began to emerge.

Not being content to cause merely a delay in the completion of construction, the elements had banded together to topple a feeder cable in the Puritas station area during the night, effectively knocking out electric power along one main track and rendering any kind of regular operation virtually impossible. A hasty effort by CTS and Shaker Rapid line crews had jury-rigged a substitute feeder to permit operation of the inaugural run, but the much-ballyhooed regular service, scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM that afternoon could not start as promised and in fact did not get underway until Monday.

CTS did make the best of a difficult situation, however, and the dedication ceremonies proceeded on schedule, though the ardor of the crowd was somewhat dampened. Those responsible for the line's successful completion were singled out for appropriate praise, and DOT Secretary Boyd summed up the city's significant accomplishment, stating that it represented "a sound investment in Cleveland's future".

At length, the "barrier" was broken, the train entered the station, and the several hundred persons present boarded the shiny "Airporter" cars for a fast ride to the Public Square. En route, there was visible

excitement as the speedometer needle inched upward toward the 55 mph mark, and when the train finally succeeded in overtaking and passing a Penn Central freight on an adjacent track there was wild cheering in every car.

The Public Square was reached quickly, despite the unscheduled delay, and the dignitaries aboard disembarked for another round of speech-making at a luncheon in the adjacent Sheraton hotel. Then, with but a handful of riders, the special set out once again for the Airport to permit some additional TV film coverage, passing en route a scene of frenzied activity as workmen labored to right the previous evening's damage. Finally, all official chores completed, the first (and last) train left a now deserted and darkened terminal. An era had almost begun.

* * *

MEANWHILE -- Elsewhere on the CTS front, some major service cuts were instituted along with the hoped-for opening of the Rapid extension. Riding has fallen off in certain areas and a total of 11 surface lines saw cuts ranging from a decrease in service frequency to total elimination of off-peak runs. Included in the cuts was the elimination of through service on Saturdays to downtown on the former Berea Bus Lines route, taken over when CTS purchased that company's rights earlier this year. Trips are now routed via the Airport to the West Park rapid station.

METRO REPORT -- The Chicago Transit Authority board's budget meeting is to be held December 5, at which time the much-talked-of fare increase proposal is sure to get a hearing. Although the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act specifically delegates to the CTA the authority to manage its own financial affairs relative to rates (as an effective means of removing such matters from political interference), at least one Chicago alderman has demanded public hearings on such a boost. Mayor Daley has also let it be known that he is behind a rate hike.

CITY LINES -- Francis Albert Sinatra (of musical fame) has let it be known he is agin' L. A. In announcing plans to move permanently to Palm Springs, the actor/singer averred, "I don't like the way things are run in Los Angeles. There is no public transportation system, and the voters turned down the latest proposal for one. The whole city needs cleaning up; the air isn't fit to breathe." End of quotable quote....Speaking of the entertainment world, NBC's Laugh-In has a brief spot (no doubt to be repeated) filmed in front of the soon-to-be-abandoned Angel's Flight funicular railway in downtown Los Angeles.

MORE OF THE SAME -- Fare increases have also been proposed for two Chicago suburban area companies, Evanston Bus and United Motor Coach. In the wake of their announcement came a statement from CTA board chairman De Ment that he was proposing a joint request by all Illinois local carriers to the legislature for subsidization; this is the first plea for mutual cooperation by any of the several transit firms in the state....Construction will start soon on a subway for Sao Paulo, Brazil, South America's second (after Buenos Aires)....A scheme for sinking a subway beneath the 177 canals of Venice is being looked at by Italian engineers; the lines would link the centers of the megalopolis forming around that city, Padua and Treviso....Milan has banned downtown street parking during business hours, following the lead of Rome and requiring some 40,000 workers to use public transportation....Chicago's Skokie Swift has been cited as being a significant cause in the reduction of air pollution in the northern areas of the city....The South Jersey Lindenwold line is now set to open from Camden outward on January 4, 1969; the segment to Philadelphia will follow later....DC Transit has asked for MP's to protect bus drivers.

CRUNCH BUNCH -- Three more derailments in three days last week have given the U. S. passenger train another black eye. First, a Penn Central train from Cincinnati to Chicago was derailed near Kokomo early Friday morning (victim of a possible "vandalized" open switch); then, on Saturday, IC's Seminole (bound for Jacksonville) was derailed near Ramer, Tenn., after a truck had earlier knocked the rails out of line. Finally, on Sunday, the Rock Island's Chicago-Omaha train struck a stalled truck near Wilton Jct. (Iowa). All three incidents received better newspaper coverage than a positive train-news item would have.

PASSENGER TRAIN POTPOURRI -- KCS 1-2, the Southern Belle, Kansas City-New Orleans will run until March 15, 1969 pending ICC hearings....B&O wants to discontinue late evening coach trains 107-112 between Baltimore and Washington effective December 4....Penn Central would like to make its Buffalo-Harrisburg line freight only by discontinuing 574-575 effective December 8....Illinois Central has discontinued meal and lounge (the latter is an observation car also) service between Jackson, Miss., and New Orleans on the City of New Orleans. Food-bar coaches have replaced buffet-lounge cars on IC's Seminole, Governor's Special and Campus (#28). Dome cars have been discontinued on UP's City of Portland (dome-lounge) east of Omaha and on CB&Q's Denver Zephyr (Vista Dome "Chuck Wagon" buffet lounge), the latter being replaced by a buffet-coach....The southern portion of the Seminole (IC/CofGa 9-10, SCL 17-18), Carbondale/Jacksonville, made its final runs November 15....CB&Q has dropped the overnight Pullman, Chicago-Omaha, on 3-4, the Ak-Sar-Ben.

ANIMAL ANTICS -- An Alaska Airlines 727 hit a moose while landing at the Cordova airport, killing the animal and damaging the plane....Last week a buffalo escaped from a slaughterhouse in Hong Kong, barged onto an airport runway and damaged a plane before being brought down by police....A new hazard is now present at Stapleton Field in Denver--teen-agers. The old game of "chicken" has a new version; players stand in the way of jets landing at the airport. Some flights had to circle the field for as long as 30 minutes until the contestants could be run off the premises.

FLIGHT FACTS -- Phillipine Airlines began a new service November 2 using DC-8s San Francisco-Saigon via Honolulu and Manila....TWA has begun three daily non-stop roundtrip flights between O'Hare and Washington National. ...Now Mexicana is providing daily direct jet service Chicago-Acapulco. ...American has begun a Chicago-El Paso daily non-stop run....Pan Am has announced plans for the largest passenger terminal ever operated by one airline, a \$50 million facility at JFK International in New York, to be completed in 1971....Married United Air Lines stewardesses can now tell the company their status and remain employed; UAL was the last major to ban the banns....Pan Am has asked the CAB for permission to sell 5 DC-8s to Delta, as well as an option to pick up five more. Pan Am is disposing of the Douglas craft in anticipation of Boeing 747 arrival, and has thus far peddled 8 to United....A private heliport has opened on Manhattan's East Side at 60th Street and the East River....The Concorde SST is set to make its maiden flight in January....The FAA has said the U. S. must construct more than 800 new airports within the next five years, as well as improve 3,000 existing ones....The TU-144, the USSR's SST, will take off for the very first time "very soon", probably in advance of the Concorde.

LAST WORDS -- Now Northwestern University professor Stanley Berge has proposed that the much-discussed third airport for Chicago be constructed 45 miles south of the city, and linked to it by high-speed rail transit.The 5'6" Spanish Talgo trains can now travel on the standard gauge SNCF lines in France, thanks to a new switching device....This issue has been delayed in production in order to cover the Cleveland extension.