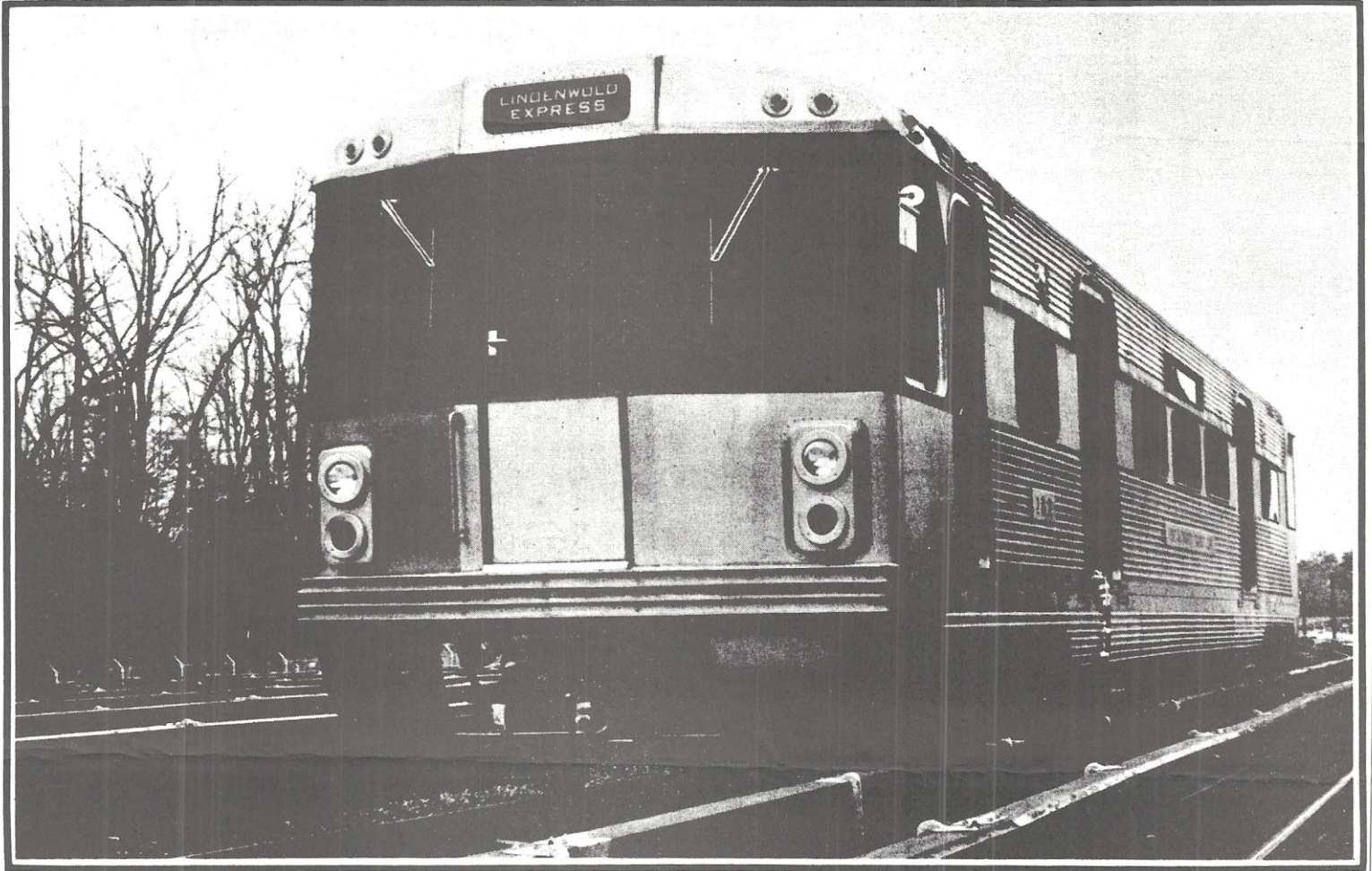


Transport Central



Published weekly by Transport Central, 416 N. State, Chicago, Illinois 60610. Telephone 312 828-0991. Annual subscription rate (including 50 issues): \$10.

NEWSFRONT

PATCO PREMIERES -- Through its subsidiary, the Port Authority Transportation Company, the Delaware River Port Authority is now in the commuter business. With the opening of the much-heralded South Jersey Rapid Transit line from Camden to Lindenwold last Saturday, a new and significant link was forged in the lengthening chain of modern urban rail transit. TC Special Correspondent David Wilson was on the scene, and here is his report:

By the time we arrived, shortly after 10:00 AM, the line had been in operation for several hours, and the 20° weather had effectively dwindled the ranks of the curious. Two-car trains were being operated (composed of single units and married pairs; all available operable cars—two units were damaged in a pre-inaugural test run accident—were in service on a rotating basis). The line had been opened from Broadway Station in Camden to Lindenwold terminal; service across the Benjamin Franklin Bridge into Philadelphia (over the DRPA's former Bridge line) will begin February 1, as soon as necessary work is completed on the refurbishing of the old line. Actually, present service is being operated over a short portion of the old line between its former Camden terminus at Broadway inbound toward Philadelphia to the City Hall station. The new line is in effect an extension outward from Broadway.

Though it had been scheduled to do so, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) was not operating connecting bus service in lieu of the former Bridge Line into Philadelphia; it was necessary to hunt for an appropriate Public Service Co-ordinated Transport bus to continue into the Quaker City.

A one-way trip along the line takes about fifteen minutes (the present route is about fifteen miles long from Camden to Lindenwold); the new cars are scheduled to operate at speeds in excess of 65 miles per hour. Seventy-five new cars are on the property; as previously mentioned, two were in a collision before the start of scheduled service. A total of three 5-car trains will be operated during the rush hours; all other runs will consist of a lesser number of cars.

The old Bridge cars are still on the property (they were placed in service in April, 1936); three are to be retained for work service and it is assumed that the remainder will be sold to SEPTA for service on that company's rapid transit lines. DRPA's original price per car was \$10,000; the asking price has since been raised. There were 26 units built (by the J. G. Brill Company); at the end of service only nine were being regularly used. Minimum rush hour headway was 24 minutes; Public Service normally had a long line of New Jersey-bound buses strung out along Market Street.

We were really impressed with the low noise level of the new cars; far less than we had ever encountered elsewhere. Designed with the passenger in mind, they feature a front seat with excellent visibility, unlike those cars used by SEPTA across the river. For a time, the highly-sophisticated new equipment will be operated manually; they are equipped

with cab signals, but they are not operable as yet. There are no way-side signals along the route; PATCO's new line is billed as the first automated rapid transit line in the U. S.

The entire line uses 132-pound welded rail, insuring a smooth and comfortable ride. In some locations, the former Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines fill was replaced by an aerial structure; in other locations where a grade-level right-of-way existed, a fill has been constructed. The former PRSL "Chinese Wall" through Camden has been done away with; the new line runs through a subway of slightly less than a mile to connect with the former Bridge Line at Broadway.

Full service to Philadelphia (connecting with SEPTA's Market Street line at Eighth in a complex, three-level station—SEPTA Ridge Avenue trains also use it) will begin February 1, and if the operation lives up to the claims made for it, PATCO will be blessed with a howling success.

ELSEWHERE ON THE TRANSIT FRONT -- PRSL has added a stop at Lindenwold for its trains; it is now only a wide spot in the ballast, but will soon be a full-fledged connection point with the new line....A transit authority is in the cards for Lake County, Indiana. Two companies currently serve the northwest corner of the state adjacent to Chicago, American Transit's Chicago & Calumet District Transit Corporation (Hammond) and Gary Transit; both are suffering the usual financial pains, and actions have been taken that will soon result in a publicly-owned operation for the Calumet area....400 new lock boxes are being added to Cincinnati buses in an attempt to ward off highwaymen; armed police guards also ride Cincinnati Transit vehicles....The Montreal Transportation Commission has instituted a new type of transfer ticket at the Berri de Montigny Metro stop that permits a 30 minute shopping stopover....Iowa City Coach has upped its fares for the second time in a year; ICC rates had been a dime until March 1, when they went up to 15¢. On December 11, the tariff rose to 20¢....Phoenix bus riders now pay an extra nickel.

MORE TRANSIT TALK -- The Cleveland Transit System has applied to UMTA for 2/3 of the funds to finance a \$9.9 million capital improvements program for the system. Included in the program is a new, centrally-located shop facility to replace the present Reed Shops, the enlargement and renovation of Brooklyn Station (on the West Side), the construction of a new substation for the Rapid and the conversion of the existing ones to silicon rectifier operation, plus the purchase of 100 new buses....MBTA/Boston's board has ok'd the installation of an electronic fare system on the new South Shore rapid transit line....Community Traction in Toledo has increased its token rate from 5/\$1.60 to 5/\$1.75 and upped student fares; base adult tariff remains at 35¢. New tokens are to be issued....New equipment is in store for Tacoma Transit (10 51-passenger Flexible units) and City Utilities in Springfield, Mo. (3 GMC 3502's). SEPTA is also up for 100 new air-conditioned buses (85 50-seat and 15 40-seat coaches). These will be the first of 1000 new buses for Philadelphia during the next five years....The Arizona Corporation Commission has given its permission to Tucson Transit's plea to end all service; the ATC-owned property will continue to operate pending the execution of a lease-back contract with the city for its equipment.

URBAN REPORT -- Worcester (Mass) now has a senior citizen's fare; oldsters can ride at a 10¢ saving over the regular adult fare....Lawrence and Haverhill, Mass. have dropped out of Mass Bay's service area; bus operation in both towns is now privately-operated....The Seashore Electric Railway Museum in Maine has acquired two more trolley coaches; Johnstown

Traction Brill #713 and Dayton Pullman #376 have joined Boston Pullman #8361 at Kennebunkport....Federal funds have gone to the Institute of Public Administration for a study of transportation for urban residents to parks and recreation areas; to Asheville (N.C.) for 34 new diesel buses and a maintenance/operations building; to Sioux City to enable that municipality to purchase Sioux City Lines (NCL) and acquire 25 new diesel buses; to Minneapolis for the construction of a transitway and mall along several blocks of Nicollet Avenue; three study grants to Baltimore (rapid transit planning), Boston (highway/rapid transit planning) and Ann Arbor (bus transit); and to the State of New Jersey, AC Transit (Oakland), Culver City and Coral Gables for new equipment....A resolution has been introduced into the Ontario Parliament calling for the extension of the successful GO Transit system to the north of Toronto, possibly as far as Orillia....Public Service has offered former all-service vehicle D900 for sale. The 1950 45-passenger unit was designed for possible overhead operation in the Newark City Subway....Cook County will conduct a feasibility study on constructing a park-ride garage on air rights over the John F. Kennedy Expressway near the Jefferson Park Terminal of the median strip rapid transit line. That line and the Ryan route are now scheduled to premiere June 1....Some 200 long-suffering Long Island commuters "revolted" Tuesday and refused to let conductors punch their tickets. One man was arrested and fifteen trains were delayed.

RAIL WRAPUP -- CN's TurboTrains operated at 75% capacity during their first week of service. Both units are now out of service because of electrical problems, but are expected to return to the rails January 16. ...KCS must continue sleeper service on the Southern Belle Kansas City to New Orleans pending the outcome of the railway's current Section 13 (a) 1 petition....B&O can discontinue 131 January 9 and 132-133-135 January 11 as scheduled; all are Baltimore-Washington RDC runs....The New Haven must run all of its petitioned trains (TC-03 Jan 69) until May 6 pending ICC hearings....L&N/SCL's Gulf Wind has lost its last sleeping car....A U.S. District Court judge has ruled that Chattanooga has no legal claim to the Civil War locomotive General, and that it may now be enshrined in Kennewick, Georgia. The locomotive was the star of the Great Locomotive Chase during the Civil War....In 1968 the U. S. government spent \$25 million on the rehabilitation of the South Viet Nam coastal railway, and has given more than \$1½ billion to foreign countries to improve their railways during the last 20 years....An English steam train will promote Dallas' famed Neiman-Marcus department store's British promotion in a 2000 mile Boston-Texas journey in April....Humorist Art Buchwald's January 7 syndicated column featured brilliantly-written satire on the Northeast Corridor train service, likening it to the recent Apollo 8 journey; this is must reading....The nightly train that will carry San Francisco's garbage 300 miles northeast to a Lassen County desert site will be called the "Excess Express". Other entries in the naming contest were "The Smells Fargo", the "Moonlight Thrasher", and the "Raw Trash Cannonball".

FLIGHT FACTS -- The CAB has allotted new Hawaii authority to American (Oakland/San Jose, Boston, New York and St. Louis), Braniff (Southeast and South Central U. S.), Continental (points in its operating area), TWA (Long Beach/Ontario, Calif.) and Western (points in its service area). Additional rights were granted to United and Northwest, both of whom already serve Hawaii....U. S. airlines took delivery of 478 new aircraft in 1968, valued at \$2½ billion. Ten of these planes were turboprops delivered to Piedmont by Nihon of Japan; foreign manufacturers have gained a foothold in the U. S. market....A more profitable airline fare setup may result from pending CAB meetings; some lines, United among them, have already petitioned for fare hikes....Watch for a special NET Journal program on the "ground squeeze", Monday night (13) on public television.