

# Transport Central

13 JUNE 1969

THE NEWS ISN'T ALWAYS ALL BAD -- The Louisville & Nashville Railroad began operating over an additional 287 miles of line on June 6 following consummation of its purchase/trackage rights deal with MoPac's Chicago & Eastern Illinois subsidiary. The sale ends L&N's eight-year effort to obtain the Evansville-Chicago route....Great Northern trains 357-358, the Streamlined International (Seattle-Vancouver) make their final runs June 15. GN has also substituted buses for the four-mile run between Superior and Duluth, closing the latter station and affecting trains 23-24 (the Badger) and 19-20 (the Gopher)....Southern has put back in service its Master Room-2 Drawing Room-Lounge cars on the Southerner between Washington-Atlanta; the cars were built for the Crescent and have been out of service for several years.

MORE -- The Milwaukee Road has removed the SkyTop parlor cars on the AM Hiawatha, substituting conventional parlor cars (probably so mail cars can be carried on the rear, no doubt also because the cars are getting on in years)....The Burlington has petitioned the Ak-Sar-Ben Zephyr (3-4, Chicago-Lincoln) for July 13. CB&Q 19-20 will continue to operate Chicago-Kansas City....The Chicago Sunday Tribune is running a series of critiques in its travel section on several contemporary passenger trains (the El Capitan-Super Chief kicked off the series); the editor claims no advance warning was given the roads involved....A three-judge Federal court has dismissed complaints by the City of Chicago and others that the ICC lacked jurisdiction and erred in its findings allowing the IC/CofGa/SCL to discontinue the Seminole (9-10, Carbondale-Jacksonville); the trains were discontinued June 2....IC has repeteritioned trains 105-106, St. Louis-Carbondale for July 1...Union Pacific has repeteritioned 5-6, Omaha-Los Angeles for June 30....ICC hearings are set for ATSF 211-212 (the Kansas City-Tulsa Tulsan) and SCL 33-34 (the Richmond-Atlanta Silver Comet), postponing dropping of both trains until October 15.

PC POTPOURRI -- This section isn't all bad either. MetroLiner 2005, New York to Washington, has been rescheduled to leave Gotham at 7:30 AM, twenty minutes later than before, to allow a more convenient departure time on the weekday-only nonstop 2½ hour run to the Capitol....Effective June 9 TurboTrains 3001-3002, Boston-New York, received the first of several reductions in running time; this one cuts 16 minutes off the original 3:55 run, and the 3:15 goal will be met when safety and reliability of the equipment has been proven. Some of the credit for the speed up goes to Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell (a long-time promoter of highspeed rail service in the Northeast Corridor) who prodded PC into action on the schedule changes....Effective June 2, PC rerouted the Cincinnati Limited (77-78, Columbus-Cincinnati) from the former Pennsy line via Xenia to the old NYC line via Dayton; the former is now freight-only....In another schedule change effective June 8 (my, but PC's schedule department is busy) Penn Central changed the tri-weekly Buffalo-Harrisburg runs, 574-575, from overnight to daylight schedules as suggested by the ICC....PC Boston-Chicago SleeperCoach service has been withdrawn.

LONG HAULS -- PIE in the sky: A favorable court ruling has cleared the way for trucker Pacific Intermountain Express to begin air freight forwarding services next month....Federal qualifications for interstate truck and bus drivers would be toughened under new DOT proposals. The

major changes would require prospective drivers to give more detailed information to employers regarding past driving and accident records, require stiffer and more frequent physical examinations, and broaden coverage of current regulations dealing with the use of drugs and alcoholic beverages while on duty....Chicago Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet reports that the nautical-minded will probably have their choice of two Lake Michigan ships offering cruise service in 1970. The Georgian Bay Line is closing a deal with Norwegian-Caribbean Lines to have the ultra-modern Sunward ply the lake waters while Hugh Hefner is finalizing plans for a floating Playboy Club.

FLYING HIGH -- The current issue (July 1969) of the magazine Soviet Life (distributed in the U.S. as part of a cultural exchange agreement that permits similar distribution of the U.S. magazine Amerika in the USSR) carries an excellent article on the Tupolev family of Soviet commercial planes, including the recently-airborne Tu-144....McDonnell-Douglas has won a contract from a four-airline European group for 36 DC-10-30 airbuses. Valued at over \$500 million, the 250 to 300 passenger craft will go into service late in 1972 on the worldwide routes of UTA (French), KLM (Dutch), SAS (Scandinavian), and Swissair. Lockheed had also bid on the order, the awarding of which will no doubt influence other carriers in search of a manufacturer. No engines have yet been set for the tri-jets; Pratt & Whitney, Rolls Royce and GE are all in the running....The CAB is to crack down on those charter operators running afoul of the thicket of regulations covering the so-called affinity charters. (An affinity charter is one composed of members of a group not specifically formed for the purpose of obtaining such cut-rate transportation and which has been in existence for at least six months.) Some of the more unscrupulous operators had formed "clubs" under various subterfuges and then sold tickets to the general public; charter rates will permit the passengers to ride for as little as 60% of the regular jet-coach air fare (round trip) between the U.S. and Europe. Almost 50 illegal charter flights have been cancelled by the CAB thus far this year.

CONTINUING -- Commuter Airlines, once the regular occupant of these columns, has sold some 750,000 shares of its stock at one-sixth of the current market value to the Aviation Equipment Company (which diligent research has failed to locate), giving that mysterious firm 30 percent control of the line. Former CAL president Paul Delman was bounced by the directors of the level III line earlier this year for his "unrealistic expansion plans"....Taking over the regular spot for level IIIs in TC is Trans-Michigan Air Lines, based in Flint. The tiny carrier has made the news by 1) announcing plans to begin O'Hare-Lake Geneva Playboy Club service on June 27, and by 2) hiring "mini-stewardesses" (4'8" to 4'11" in height) for its "mini-planes". ....Bids will be opened August 6 on a contract for construction of a six-level parking garage (to hold 10,000 autos) costing \$35 million at O'Hare. It and the hotel mentioned last issue will be located in the area hitherto reserved for the proposed rapid transit terminal.

METROPOLITAN REPORT -- The dissident CTA bus drivers responsible for those wildcat walkouts last summer have lost in their bid to acquire control of Amalgamated local 241 in the union election. Warren Scholl, the "establishment" candidate, won handily....Tuscaloosa Transit has ceased all operations in that Alabama city as of May 30. A Negro boycott began at 8:00 AM after charges of police brutality were raised in connection with an incident involving a black girl aboard a bus a few days earlier, and, with 80% of its ridership gone the firm quit at 12. ...Senior citizens begin receiving cut-rate (10¢) transportation in New York July 1....Construction on the Northwest Passage linking the C&NW commuter facilities with CTA's Lake Street L at the Clinton station has begun; work will be completed early in 1970....United Air Lines' Mainliner magazine's June issue carries an excellent article on the restoration of the cable car facilities in San Francisco. Free copies are available from the airline in Chicago.