

# Transport Central

## T. C.

We will digress from our perusal of commercial trolley coach operations for a few brief moments to detail the many demonstrations of various types of equipment that were recorded in cities throughout the country. Differing from commercial installations in that no regular, profit-making operation was attempted, no historical outline would be complete without a brief mention of these experiments, as recorded in contemporary trade journals and the press.

### ???? - GREENWICH

This experimental venture was reported by the Electric Railway Journal in 1930, ranking among the first recorded uses of the vehicle. Little is known about it, save that it took place "before streetcars came to Greenwich."

### 1887 - BOSTON

One coach, constructed by the Eastern Trackless Trolley Company, operated in a vacant lot on Harrison Avenue. The Eastern company was founded by Artemas Upham, often referred to as the father of the trackless trolley.

### 1887 - NANTUCKET BEACH

Eastern's pioneer coach later ran on a one mile line at Nantucket. It is uncertain exactly when this trial took place, but it followed the Boston one.

### 1901 - BOSTON

According to ERJ, Upham's company tested what was apparently an improved unit somewhere in the city, but little is also known of this trial.

### 1903 - NEW HAVEN

By now, the company had changed its name to the American Trackless Trolley Company and demonstrated yet another coach, seating 20.

### 1903 - SCRANTON

The growing interest in the new vehicle led to a comprehensive testing of its merits on a special track in Scranton. Trial service began November 2, 1903, on an 800 foot long line on private property which approximated pavements to be found on a variety of country roads. The coach was operated for a few months, but again no sales resulted.

### 1912 - NEW HAVEN

An offshoot of the trolley coach during this era was the trolley truck, constructed by the Trolley Electric Vehicle Company of America. It had a single pole with two shoes, and was equipped with a storage battery to propel the vehicle when it was not under wire.

### 1921 - RICHMOND

During franchise negotiations with the various municipalities in which it provided transit service, the Virginia Railway & Power Company actively promoted the trolley coach as a means of local transportation, and demonstrated an Atlas vehicle on a short line in Richmond. GE equipped, the coach was tested at General Electric's Schenectady plant before the Richmond trial.

### 1921 - NORFOLK

Later in the same year, the Atlas-GE coach also operated in trial service in Norfolk. The eventual disposition of this coach is not known.

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#### 1921 - DETROIT

The fledgling Department of Street Railways (DSR), in an effort to find a vehicle suitable for its lighter lines conducted a series of three tests with separate units on a line constructed for the purpose along St. Jean and Harper.

1) The first unit was a Brill (body) - Packard (chassis) coach, equipped by Westinghouse.

2) The second unit was a Trackless Transportation Corporation coach, GE-powered, and previously tested at General Electric's Schenectady plant.

3) The final unit was built by St. Louis Car and tested at its plant first; it was powered by two 25 HP Westinghouse motors.

DSR made no plans for trolley coach operation as a result of these tests.

#### 1921 - PHILADELPHIA

This coach was a Brill RailLess Car, and demonstrated within the confines of the Brill Philadelphia plant. It may have been sold to Petersburg in 1924.

#### 1922 - LOS ANGELES

One Brill RailLess Car operated here on a short line in 1922. It seated 30, and had GE non-automatic control with contactors and a foot-operated master controller. Equipped with leather seats, its ultimate fate is unknown.

#### 1923 - NEW YORK CITY

The Trackless Trolley Company of America in 1923 constructed the largest unit produced up to that time, seating 32 and featuring 4-motor drive. The body was built by Remmele & Maier of New Jersey, but the exact location of the trial run is unknown.

#### 1923 - NORFOLK

A Brill RailLess Car was demonstrated by VR&P during negotiations in Norfolk, offering free rides. This coach may also have gone to Petersburg.

#### 1924 - DETROIT

Philadelphia Rapid Transit Brill 61 demonstrated on East Warren Avenue in May. A Packard was also used at about the same time.

#### 1937 - SEATTLE/LOS ANGELES

A Twin Coach 44 passenger model demonstrated in Seattle, Los Angeles and perhaps other cities. It was part of an order for Youngstown and was later delivered there.

#### 1949 - BUFFALO

Cincinnati Street Railway Marmon-Herrington 1446 operated for several weeks on a downtown loop using specially-purchased power in December at the request of the Buffalo Evening News and the Chamber of Commerce (but definitely not with the cooperation of the International Railway Company) in an effort to influence the city council to award a franchise requiring the operation of electric vehicles (a borrowed PCC was not even unloaded from its flatcar). It goes without saying that the demonstration was unsuccessful, and both vehicles were returned to their owners.

(Our thanks to the Motor Bus Society for supplying additional historical data)

TRANSPORTATION HOBBYIST AND HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS

## THE MOTOR BUS SOCIETY

767 Valley Road, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Motor Coach Age, monthly

## AMERICAN VECTURISTS ASSOCIATION

D. N. Mazeau, Box 31, Clinton, CN 06413

The Fare Box, monthly

## TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY

William B. Spilman, Box 1122, Waynesboro, VA 22980

## COMMITTEE FOR BETTER TRANSIT

Box 3106, Long Island City, NY 11103

Better Transit Bulletin, quarterly

## INDIANAPOLIS RAILFANS

Paul D. Moffett, 8386 N. Illinois, Indianapolis, IN 46260

## TEXAS AREA VECTURIST ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Pat Murdock, Box 411, Mesquite, TX 75149

Token Talk, monthly

## SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION TOKEN CLUB

Clarence E. Heppner, 1331 3rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98101

## MIDWEST TRANSPORTATION TOKEN AND TICKET CLUB

Robert M. Butler, 731 E. 26th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404

## PITTSBURGH DISTRICT TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB

Harry C. Bartley, 224 Lincoln Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202

## CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

Robert M. Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90048

## NORTHEASTERN VECTURIST ASSOCIATION

Joseph Allis, 48 E. 29th St., New York, NY 10016

NEVA News, bi-monthly

## CHICAGO AREA TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY

Donald G. Punshon, 3360 N. Neenah Ave., Chicago, IL 60634

## DELAWARE VALLEY VECTURIST ASSOCIATION

Daniel DiMichael, Box 485, Coatesville, PA 19320

## UPPER CANADA RAILWAY SOCIETY

Box 122, Terminal A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

UCRS Newsletter, monthly

## TRANSPORT TICKET SOCIETY

D. G. Geldard, 65 Ferndown Ave., Crofton Place,

Orpington, Kent, England

TTS Journal, monthly

## NORTH SHORE TECHNICAL INFORMATION GROUP

C. Mischke, 1816 Douglas Ave., Ames, IA 50010

## BRITISH COLUMBIA TRANSIT SOCIETY

John Day, 1368 W. 57th Ave., Vancouver 14, British Columbia, Canada

Canadian Coach, monthly

## AMERICAN FARE COLLECTION ASSOCIATION

Melvin Rosenberg, 1900 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

The Punchmark, monthly

## BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

Box 102, Cambridge, MA 02138

The Roll Sign, monthly

## ELECTRIC RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION

Box 80, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008

Headlights, monthly

## MOBILE POST OFFICE SOCIETY

Edwin Bergman, 5824 Francis Street, Omaha, NB 68106

Transit Postmark Collector, bi-monthly

## NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Carrel I. Tod, 1908 N. Quintana St., Arlington, VA 22205

The Bulletin, bi-monthly

## CANADIAN RAILROAD HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Box 22, Station B, Montreal 2, Quebec, Canada

Canadian Rail, monthly

## MIDWEST VECTURIST ASSOCIATION

J. Roger Bolz, 6118 Hartley St., Lincoln, NB 68507

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

333 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601

## CENTRAL ELECTRIC RAILFANS ASSOCIATION

Box 503, Chicago, IL 60690

Yearly bulletins

## UNITED TRANSIT BOOSTERS

1167 N. Serrano, Los Angeles, CA 90029

Western Transit, monthly

## THE OMNIBUS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Rex Nelson, 7318 East Prairie Rd., Lincolnwood, IL 60645

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TIMETABLE COLLECTORS

Howard H. Sanford, 59 Hellam Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Timetable Newsletter, monthly

## STEAMSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

414 Pelton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310

Steamboat Bill, quarterly

## RAILROAD STATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

901 Dale Drive, Lincoln, NB 68510

The Bulletin, monthly

## TEXAS DIVISION, ERA

Milam Building, San Antonio, TX 78205

Short Circuit Bulletin, monthly

## NATIONAL TROLLEYBUS ASSOCIATION

D. M. Barrow, 4 Longley Road, Rochester, Kent, England

Trolleybus Magazine, monthly

## VINTAGE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CLUB

Harry R. Porter, 1024 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40204

(Additions and corrections to this list will be most appreciated. The basic listing was compiled by TC Editor Harry R. Porter, in July 1968)

A list of rail museums of all types is featured in the 1968 Steam and Electric Passenger Service Directory, available at most hobby shops.

# NEWS WEEK

OF PLANES AND PORTS -- Continental Airlines, that route of the Proud Bird, is trying out its new 727-200s by offering 2 hour press preview courtesy flights (including dinner) from Chicago to Milwaukee, Green Bay and Des Moines and return non-stop. Special feature of the new craft is a new wide seating configuration; each middle seat in a trio is larger than those adjacent on the perfectly logical principle that the "middle man" needs the extra room....A 24'x130' length of roadway leading up to a United hangar at O'Hare is being fitted with a special wired pavement designed to melt snow and ice. If the project is successful, such pavements might be considered for runways themselves....Irish International has ordered 6 more Boeing 737-200s....Air France is to refurbish its entire fleet of 31 Boeing 707s....United Air Lines has placed two Super DC-8s in charter service....Mohawk has ordered 3 more BAC-111s....Eastern has ordered four additional DC-8-63s....Pacific Western has just purchased its third Boeing 737- 00....Japan Airlines has ordered 10 DC-8s....ALM Dutch Antillean Airlines is to receive two Fokker Friendship 500s and two DC-9s....Boeing has announced that wing design for the SST will be fixed rather than swing-wing. Recent crashes of the Air Force F-111 fighter bombers have involved components of the variable wing mechanism....Service between the U. S. and South Pacific has been increased from 10 to 16 flights each week by Pan American....On the freight side, Airborne Freight Corporation and Pacific Air Freight have merged; the combine will retain the Airborne name.

AIR TAXI TOPICS -- Houston Metro Airlines (formerly NASA Commuter Airlines) will soon be operating De Havilland 600 propjet aircraft....Trans East Airlines recently inaugurated Portland (Maine)-New York service with De Havilland Twin Otters....Air Wisconsin has recently accepted for delivery its fourth Beechcraft 99....Aerolineas Anahuac has opened four new routes in Mexico....Wideroe's Flyveselskap (Norway) has just received a De Havilland Twin Otter....Shawnee Airlines of Orlando (Florida) is inaugurating scheduled air taxi flights in a number of Florida cities....Fleet Airways (of the Twin Cities) has changed its name to Fleet Airlines....Executive Airlines of Boston is taking delivery of six Beechcraft 99 turboprop airliners....Wright Airlines is now furnishing service between Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Dayton and Columbus with four engine De Havilland SkyLiners....Commuter Airlines of Chicago (long absent from the pages of TC) is now offering 134 daily flights to 13 midwestern cities, and just hit a record for its 2½ years of operations. Paul Delman's airline hauled more than 10,000 passengers in August, a first for a single month. CAL has also arranged financing for 14 new Beechcraft airliners at a total cost of \$5 million....Altair has just started direct air service to Philadelphia from Westchester County (New York) Airport.

RAIL ROUNDUP -- The Burlington's Nebraska Zephyr, #11-12 (Galesburg-Lincoln), must run until January 21, 1969 pending ICC hearings....Southern Railway, on appeal, has been given a rare break by the ICC on a train-off decision; the Carolina Special (Oakdale, Tenn. - Columbia, S. C.) may be re-petitioned after November 14 instead of June 14, 1969, because of severe losses arising after the discontinuance of its Cincinnati connection....B&O wants to discontinue local commuter trains #37/51 and 52/40, Cumberland-Washington, replacing them with express trains #51-52, Martinsburg-Washington (with stops only at Brunswick, Gaithersburg and Rockville) effective October 7....An ICC examiner has recommended that Seaboard Coast Line be allowed to merge with the Piedmont and Northern; at the same time Southern's merger application would be rejected....MoPac has again petitioned #14-15-16-17, St. Louis-Kansas City, this time to

Interstate under Section 13a (2)....The Rock Island has been allowed to shut its Davenport, Iowa station, leaving the Rock Island (Illinois) depot to exclusively serve the Quad Cities area.

**EXTRA FARE --** The Burlington-Rio Grande-Western Pacific California Zephyr will be operated on an extra fare basis beginning October 15. All first class passengers will pay a surcharge of \$20 each way for a full trip, while coach passengers will be assessed \$10. Proportionate rates will apply over intermediate distances (except locally on the Burlington which continues the policy of not charging an extra fare on its trains).

**CANADIAN CAPERS --** The Canadian National is now testing the Turbo-Trains, with a view toward an expected early 1969 introduction into regular service....Two B&O twin-unit diners have been leased for service on the Super Continental....Those Executive Club cars on the PM Rapidos were withdrawn during the summer business travel lull.

**DOT DOLES --** The Department of Transportation has made available more funds for urban transit improvements. In Wichita Falls (Texas), city officials will conduct technical studies to determine if and how the municipality should operate a public transit system. City officials feel the private operator, Wichita City Lines (an NCL property), is providing a pattern of service inadequate to meet community demands....\$727,344 has been awarded to the Tri-State Transportation Commission of New York City to test a self-propelled turbo-electric rail commuter car....A technical study of the operations of MBTA's Boylston Tunnel in Boston will also be funded by DOT, with a view toward easing the delays caused by the more than 175 hourly subway cars using it in rush periods. Other aspects of Boston's downtown rapid transit network will also be studied....DOT has made an \$84,868 supplemental grant to the city of Lafayette (Louisiana) to complete the modernization of its transit system. This grant, added to some \$233,000 already awarded, will assist in upgrading the physical plant of the transit system and its 15 new coaches.

**METRO REPORT --** That CTA "wildcat" strike was finally called off this past weekend. Dissident drivers now say they will attempt to gain recognition as bargaining agent through an NLRB-sponsored election later this year. The SCLC's Operation Breadbasket has pledged its support of the drivers' efforts to gain more black representation in union affairs and within the CTA administrative structure itself....Those two suburban bus companies (TC - 30 Aug 68) asked to move out of Greyhound's Chicago terminal (United Motor Coach and West Suburban Transit Lines) will do so on September 29; both will now have on-street terminals....New York's tough traffic administrator, Henry Barnes, died September 16. World-renowned as an official whose chief aim was to get (and keep) traffic moving, Mr. Barnes helped untangle jams in Flint, Denver and Baltimore before moving on to Gotham in 1962. He was a firm advocate of mass transit, and instituted many controversial reforms intended to assist in moving people, as opposed to just vehicles.

**LAST WORDS --** The American Transit Association held a successful annual convention in Cleveland this past week....Moscow's present 77 miles of subway are to be doubled within the next decade....The New York City Transit Authority has ordered 133 air-conditioned buses from GM....Preparations made for the opening of the South Jersey Rapid Transit line in early 1969 include a massive rehabilitation of PTC's Ridge Avenue subway. ....Two Washington suburban operators, AB&W and WV&M have further integrated their route network with more joint operations. The two firms pioneered such joint services in 1961.