

WEEKLY RAIL REVIEW

For The Week Ending SAT, September 25, 2004

Edited By Dave Mears

(NOTE: The expression "ffd" at the end of a news item represents "for further details" and suggests a reference for further related information.)

THE WEEK'S TOP NEWS (in chronological order):

(SUN) A CSX freight train derailed 29 cars near Richmond, VA.'s West End neighborhood. The train of mainly loaded coal cars was enroute from Elkhorn, WV. to Newport News, VA. A CSX spokesman said that no one was injured in the accident, the cause of which is under investigation. (ffd: Richmond Times Dispatch)

(SUN) A New York Times article reviewed the first 6 months of operation of New Jersey Transit's new Secaucus Junction rail station, which connects 9 of NJT's 11 commuter rail lines. Reporting that the station cost \$609 million to construct, the article noted that only approximately 5,600 weekday riders use the station, compared with a forecast of 7,500. The article also noted rider complaints of uncomfortable waiting areas, poor station announcements, no parking spaces and a "funky marsh smell" out on the station's platforms. (ffd: NY Times)

(MON) Shortline Ann Arbor Railroad suffered an on-duty employee fatality. Charles Hatch, Age 46, was killed while switching his train's cars. The accident occurred in Saline, MI. near the Visteon Corporation's Michigan Avenue plant. (ffd: Ann Arbor News)

(MON) Union Pacific announced that it would install digital cameras and microphones on its locomotives to record events in sight, such as grade crossing crashes. A UP spokesman said that the devices would be mounted outside the locomotive cab and would be linked to locomotive event recorders. "This will put a visual and sound with the recording," the spokesman said. (ffd: UP Corp., wire services)

(MON) Officials of the New Jersey Museum of Transportation announced the discovery of 2 pre-Civil War steam locomotives submerged off the New Jersey coast. A spokesman for the museum, which has salvage rights, said that the locomotives were both upright in approximately 90 feet of water a few miles east of Asbury Park, NJ. The spokesman added that there were no immediate plans to try to raise the locomotives, which might have slipped off a ship during a storm in the early 1850's. (ffd: Philadelphia Inquirer)

(TUE) Union Pacific was named one of the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" by Working Mother Magazine. The award, which UP won for the third time in 4 years, noted several helpful initiatives by the railroad, including a 19,000 square-foot fitness facility at the company's new Omaha, NE. headquarters, a 20,000 square-foot childcare center now under construction near the headquarters, and its "Rest Easy" program, which pays half the cost of a

nurse to go to an employee's home if a child is sick. (ffd: Progressive Railroad)

(WED) New York State Transportation Commissioner Joseph Boardman requested that Amtrak return 3 recently rebuilt Turboliner trainsets to New York State from storage in Delaware. The trainsets, which were rebuilt as part of a state project launched in 1998 to improve travel times between New York City and Albany, have been idled since June due to mechanical problems. The following day, Thursday, Amtrak filed a motion in federal court against a suit filed last month by the New York State Department of Transportation, which seeks to compel Amtrak to undertake improvements NYDOT says Amtrak was to do related to the project. (ffd: Albany Times Union)

(THU) The Maryland Department of Transportation announced that it had allocated \$230 million over the next 6 years to build an east-west transit line through Baltimore. An MDOT spokesman said that the line would be built between the Woodlawn and Fells Point sections of Baltimore. The spokesman added that whether the line would be heavy rail or light rail would be a question to be resolved by the planning process. (ffd: Baltimore Sun)

(THU) Union Pacific announced that it would build a new city park just south of downtown Omaha, NE. A UP spokesman said that the new park would include a UP "Big Boy" steam locomotive and a "Centennial" diesel locomotive that were at a previous city park that was demolished in 2002 to make way for redevelopment. The new park will be named in honor of former UP Chairman John Kenefick, who retired in 1986 but who still maintains an office at the railroad. (ffd: Progressive Railroad)

(THU) German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder predicted that Deutsche Bahn, the German state railway, would be privatized by 2008. Mr. Schroder said that earlier plans for an initial stock offering in 2006 were "unrealistic." (ffd: wire services)

(FRI) A Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train and a Union Pacific freight train collided at slow speed in San Antonio, TX. A spokesman for the San Antonio Fire Department, which was at the scene, said that a total of 27 cars were derailed in the accident and that some of the derailed cars knocked down adjacent power lines and transformers, which in turn cause electrical failures in some parts of the city. The spokesman added that there were no injuries in the derailment and that its cause was still under investigation. (ffd: San Antonio News)

STATS:

(THU) For the week ending September 18, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 0.9 percent from the comparable week last year, down 3.1 percent in the East, but up 4.0 percent in the West. This week this year versus this week last year, notable traffic increases included metallic ores up 16.1 percent, metals up 14.7 percent and coke up 6.2 percent; notable traffic decreases included primary forest products down 16.9 percent, non-grain farm products down 16.9 percent and nonmetallic minerals down 14.0 percent. Also for the week ending September 18, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 13.1 percent – at 229,039 units, a new weekly U.S. record. Also for the week ending September 18, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 3.5 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 7.1 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic was up 17.2 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 8.5 percent, all when ranked with the comparable week last year.

For the period January 1 through September 18, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 3.2 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 9.5 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 8.4 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 0.1 percent, TFM's carload rail traffic was up 1.6 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 3.8 percent, all when ranked with the comparable week last year. (ffd: AAR)

ACQUISITIONS, ABANDONMENTS AND ALIKE:

(MON) CSX filed to discontinue approximately 6 miles of its Capital Subdivision between Sheperd Jct. and the line's end in Southeast Washington, DC. (ffd: STB)

(MON) CSX filed to abandon approximately 10 miles of its Buffalo Subdivision between Franco, WV. and Saunders, WV. (ffd: STB)

(TUE) Wyoming & Colorado Railroad filed to abandon approximately 24 miles of line between Walcott, WY. and Saratoga, WY. (ffd: STB)

PERSONNEL CHANGES AND ALIKE:

(MON) CSX appointed Francis Chinnici VP-Purchasing. (ffd: CSX Corp.)

(WED) Terminal railroad New York Regional Rail appointed Ron Bridges CEO. Mr. Bridges was previously NYRR's CEO, having retired from the company approximately 2 years ago. (ffd: NYRR Corp.)

(THU) Amtrak appointed Sonya Proctor Chief of Police. Ms. Proctor, Amtrak's first female police chief, was most recently Chief of Police and Acting Town Administrator of Bladensburg, MD. (ffd: Amtrak)

(THU) Burlington Northern Santa Fe reorganized its Consumer Products Group, which will now be known as the Food and Consumer Goods Group. The group will be headed by AVP-Food and Consumer Goods Cal Reynolds, with Director Mike Williamson leading the group's sales team and Director Mike Wood leading the group's marketing team. (ffd: BNSF Corp.)

(FRI) Burlington Northern Santa Fe appointed Jeanne Michalski VP-Human Resources & Medical. Ms. Michalski was most recently BNSF's AVP-Human Resources and Employee Organization and Development. (ffd: BNSF Corp.)

(FRI) CSX appointed Shelley Mast VP-Customer Service Operations. Ms. Mast is an 18-year veteran of CSX. (ffd: CSX)

Corp.)

(FRI) Kansas City Southern appointed Fred Uzzell AVP-Financial Systems. Mr. Uzzell was most recently CFO of Bank Card Central, Inc. (ffd: KCS Corp.)

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Weekly Rail Review is edited from public news sources and published weekly to the rail and transit industries and those interested in them. Send an e-mail to <<mailto:weeklyrailreview@aol.com>>weeklyrailreview@aol.com to receive it, with my compliments.

HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS WEEK,
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