

## WEEKLY RAIL REVIEW

For the week ending SAT, January 17, 2004

By Dave Mears

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

(TUE) Union Pacific announced that it would transfer over 1,038 positions from St. Louis, MO. to Omaha, NE. A UP spokesman said that the transferring positions are in the areas of accounting, finance and customer service, and also include those positions of UP's wholly owned technology subsidiary, Transcentric. The spokesman added that the transferring positions would be relocated into UP's new 19-story, 1.1 million-square-foot headquarters complex now under construction in Omaha that is scheduled for completion in August. (ffd: wire services)

(WED) Norfolk Southern suffered an on-duty employee fatality. Steven Hall, Age 40, was killed when he fell under the wheels of a freight car he was switching. The accident occurred in NS's switching yard in Kankakee, IL. (ffd: Conrail Technical Society)

(WED) Burlington Northern Santa Fe announced that it would begin a new service to transport privately owned automobiles. A BNSF spokesman said that the new service, known as Car-Rail, will start March 8 and initially be offered between Phoenix/Tucson, AZ. and Chicago, IL. or Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. The spokesman added that the service was being operated in partnership with vehicle carrier Autolog Corp. and the BNSF subsidiary BNSF Logistics. (ffd: BNSF Corp.)

(THU) Passenger rail service resumed between the nations of India and Pakistan. Service had been suspended for the last 2 years related to tensions between the 2 countries. The train traveling between them, known as the Samjhauta Express, runs between the Pakistani city of Lahore and India's capital city of New Delhi. (ffd: NARP)

(FRI) The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics announced the release of the 2004 edition of its annual Pocket Guide to Transportation. The guide covers data on the U.S. transportation system, transportation safety and security, and transportation's impact on the U.S. economy. The guide may be purchased by phone, mail or via the BTS's website, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov). (ffd: USDOT)

(FRI) The nation of China announced that it had abandoned earlier plans to build a maglev railway between Beijing and Shanghai. A spokesman for China's Railway Ministry said that improved passenger rail services between the cities, which are approximately 750 miles apart, would instead use conventional railway technology. (ffd: wire services)

(FRI) The first freight train to run the length of Australia's new north-south transcontinental rail line departed from the southern coastal city of Adelaide for the northern coastal city of Darwin. The new line, which was constructed over the last 3 years, bridges a gap of several hundred miles between Alice Springs in the south to near Birdum in the north. A spokesman for the Australian government said that passenger rail services over the line would begin on February 1. (ffd: NARP)

### STATS:

(THU) For the week ending January 10 - the first full week of 2004 - U. S. carload rail traffic was down 3.2 percent, down 4.4 percent in the East and down 2.2 percent in the West. This week this year versus this week last year, notable traffic increases included coke up 36.1 percent, grain up 15.9 percent and waste and scrap materials up 15.0 percent; notable traffic decreases include motor vehicles and equipment down 27.4 percent, lumber and wood products down 13.3 percent and coal down 6.5 percent. Also for the week ending January 10, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 1.1 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 2.3 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 3.1 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic was down 12.9 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was down 28.4 percent, all when ranked with the comparable week last year. (ffd: AAR)

### ACQUISITIONS, ABANDONMENTS AND ALIKE:

(MON) Illinois Central filed to abandon approximately 1 mile of line in Prichard, AL. (ffd: STB)

(MON) Norfolk Southern filed to abandon approximately 2 miles of line of its "Old R Line" in Charlotte, NC. (ffd: STB)

(TUE) Burlington Northern Santa Fe agreed to grant temporary trackage rights to Union Pacific between Keddie, CA. and Klamath Falls, OR., totaling approximately 203 miles. The purpose of these temporary trackage rights is to facilitate forthcoming scheduled maintenance on UP's line between these points. (ffd: STB)

(WED) Indiana Rail Road filed to lease, from CSX, and operate approximately 2 miles of line in Bloomington, IN. (ffd: STB)

(WED) PAV Railroad filed to acquire, from N&T Railway, and operate all of N&T's lines in or near Canton, OH., totaling 21 miles. (ffd: STB)

(FRI) Bay Colony Railroad filed to acquire, from CSX, and operate approximately 6 miles of line in Bristol Company, MA. (ffd: STB)

(FRI) Lamoille Valley Railroad filed to abandon approximately 97 miles of line in Caledonia, Washington, Orleans, Lamoille and

Franklin Counties, VT. (ffd: STB)

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

(WED) Shared Assets, the Conrail remnant terminal company, announced that Ron Batory had been named its President and COO. Mr. Batory, who was been with Shared Assets for 5 years, was previously the President of the Belt Railway Company of Chicago. Mr. Batory succeeds Gregory Weber, who has announced his intention to retire in the Spring. (ffd: CSX Corp., NS Corp.)

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Weekly Rail Review is edited from public news sources and published weekly, usually on Sunday or Monday, to the rail and transit industries and those interested in them. Send an e-mail to [weeklyrailreview@aol.com](mailto:weeklyrailreview@aol.com) to receive it, with my compliments.

HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS WEEK,  
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