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RAIL REVENUES AND EXPENSES: - Estimated net income of Class I railroads in September amounted to \$30 million as compared with \$73 million in September of last year. Net income for the first nine months of 1959 was estimated at \$393 million as compared with the net income of \$353 million in the corresponding period of 1958.

Net railway operating income of Class I railroads in September, before deduction of interest and other fixed charges, was \$46 million as compared with \$94 million in September 1958. For the first nine months of 1959, net railway operating income totaled \$549 million as compared with \$489 million for the same period of 1958.

Total operating revenues in the first nine months of 1959 amounted to \$7,391 million as compared with \$7,013 million in the corresponding period of 1958, an increase of 5.4 per cent. Operating expenses in the first nine months of 1959 amounted to \$5,087 million as compared with \$5,613 million in the same period of 1958, an increase of 3.5 per cent.

ANOTHER MERGER UNDER STUDY: - Merger of the Rock Island and Milwaukee Roads is under study by directors of the two railroads. Such a merger would make the combined road the largest in the United States, having a total trackage of 18,175 miles, and serving more than 12 states.

In terms of revenues, the completed merger would rank sixth in the nation, with combined revenues exceeding \$452 million.

"SUPERBUS": - A new vehicle, dubbed the "Superbus," resembling an articulated Greyhound-type bus, with a flexible diaphragm connecting the two passenger compartments, has been placed into service between Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado. Capable of carrying 63 passengers, the "Superbus" is air conditioned, has a lounge, restroom, and a hostess aboard. It is constructed in Germany from American, English and German parts.

TRAILER TRAIN GROWS: - Four new members of Trailer Train, the ACL, SAL, GM&O and IC, will provide greatly expanded piggyback service between the South and points in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

Total membership in Trailer Train, the nation's largest owner of piggyback cars, is now 18 railroads and one freight forwarder.

Trailer Train Board Chairman J. P. Newell commented that: "The addition of these four railroads means that Trailer Train's membership has doubled in less than a year. Trailer Train's business so far this year is about 130 per cent ahead of last year, compared with an increase in piggyback volume on a national basis of about 60 per cent. Trailer Train members alone are carrying more than half the national total. We believe this success graphically illustrates the advantages of having a national pool of piggyback cars rather than separate ownership by individual railroads."

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SEAWAY TRAFFIC MOUNTS: - More than 14,200,000 tons of cargo were carried through the St. Lawrence Seaway (Montreal to Lake Ontario) from April through September, the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation has reported. It said that the increase over the tonnage passing over the old St. Lawrence Canal to the same date last year was approximately 67 per cent. The Corporation added that up to the end of September, the upbound movement increased by over 4 million tons, or 116 per cent, and the downbound tonnage by 1,500,000 tons, or 31 per cent.

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FREIGHT CAR FLEET AT NEW LOW: - Serviceable fleet of freight cars on Class I railroads is now down to about 1,550,000 cars, the lowest point in about 18 years. It's down some 40,000 cars from a year ago, and the latest AAR figures show that September brought a net loss in ownership of 6,510 cars.

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HOLIDAY TRIP PLAN FOR CHILDREN UNVEILED: - Children 12 years old and younger, accompanied by adults, will be able to travel round-trip from their homes to nine Western and Midwestern cities for a total fare of 25 cents in the three weekends preceding Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, the Missouri Pacific Railroad announced recently. Under the plan, accompanying adults will also be able to buy round-trip tickets for the price of a one-way coach fare. Only restriction on the "holiday travel plan" is a one-day limit on the round-trip.

The nine cities are: Little Rock, Ark., Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Wichita, Kans.; Omaha, Neb.; Memphis, Tenn.; Houston, Beaumont and San Antonio, Tex.

PENNSY ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT: - Allen J. Greenough, vice president-transportation and maintenance for the Pennsylvania since 1955, was elected president and chief administrative officer of that road on October 28. James M. Symes, former president, was elected chairman of the board and chief executive officer, effective November 1. This top-level shift in PRR management was announced following a board of directors meeting.

RAILROAD FREIGHT COMMODITY STATISTICS: - Class I railroads originated 633.6 million tons of revenue freight in the first six months of 1959, an increase of 17.4 per cent above the 539.6 million tons originated in the corresponding period of 1958, according to a report of the Bureau of Transport Economics and Statistics of the ICC. The Bureau added that gross freight revenue in the first half of 1959 amounted to \$4,491.5 million, which was 11.8 per cent above the \$4,018.4 million in the 1958 period. Gross freight revenue in the first six months of 1959 averages \$7.09 per ton originated, which was 4.8 per cent below the \$7.45 average in 1958.

PERSONNEL CHANGES: - The following changes in Frisco personnel have been announced:

Retirement: - A. E. Hoehle, auditor-disbursements, retired October 31, after more than forty-nine years of Frisco service:

Appointments: - E. M. Peak, auditor-disbursements, headquarters St. Louis, effective November 1.

A. W. Hutchison (FTC), sales manager, headquarters Springfield, effective November 1.

FRISCO LOADINGS: - For the period October 31 to November 6, 1959, inclusive, Frisco revenue freight loaded on-line and received from connections totaled 15,938, compared with 16,782 for the previous 7-day period, and a total of 15,393 for the corresponding period last year.

GOING..GOING..: - Only 875 steam locomotives were still in the service of Class I railroads on October 1 of this year, compared with a steam locomotive ownership of 28,964 in 1949. Not a single railroad steam engine has been built since 1954. More than 340 steam locomotives are now on display in museums, fairgrounds and parks in cities and towns from coast to coast.

THE BIG BITE

