



# FRISCO Railfan

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OKLAHOMA OBSERVING 50TH ANNIVERSARY: - The gates opened on June 14 on Oklahoma's 24-day celebration of the anniversary of its fiftieth year of statehood with a gigantic exposition at Oklahoma City. Three of the railroads--the Frisco, Rock Island and Santa Fe--which contributed so greatly to the developing of Oklahoma and the rest of the West, combined to present a display in the transportation area of the Exposition.

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PRIVATE MOTORIST SOAKED: - "It is certainly not fair for any group such as passenger car owners to pay more for their use of the highways than they are receiving in benefits. The passenger car and the ordinary farm-to-market and light truck owners are already paying a major share of highway costs.

"For example, the \$200 tax increase voted on heavy trucks recently would bring Missouri only enough money to build about three miles of present type four-lane highways."--From an address by former Missouri Governor Lloyd C. Stark in St. Louis.

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KATY GETS ABANDONMENT LIGHT: - The I. C. C. has conditionally approved Katy's application to abandon 123 miles of line in Eastern Kansas between Junction City and Parsons.

Under the decision the permission would be granted providing Katy can sell vital segments of the line to "responsible" parties for at least their fixed salvage value. Katy has fixed the salvage value of the entire line at \$696,031.

The move is opposed by the Kansas Public Service Commission.

TEXAS SHOWS THE WAY: - A move to hike maximum truck loads in Texas to a whopping 72,000 pounds from a current legal limit of 58,400, was soundly beaten in the legislative session which just ended at Austin. The measure, skimmed through the House in easy style, but an aroused public caused the Senate to turn thumbs down on the proposal. "Informed Texans, in immense numbers," reports Kenneth McCalla, general counsel of the Texas Railroad Association, "increasingly aware of the high cost of highway buildings and repair, let members of the Senate know their sentiments. The newspapers," he added, "made available to the public the facts and editorially opposed the weight increase which neither the roads nor the bridges of Texas are strong enough to support. The result: Conscientious senators put the brakes on the onrushing giants and for the first time in a dozen years a truck increase measure failed."

Since 1945 truckers in Texas had been enjoying boosts in weight loads starting at 38,000 pounds and climbing to 58,400 without license fees climbing accordingly.

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MAY QUIT PASSENGER BUSINESS: - The Monon's President, Warren W. Brown, has indicated that railroad may get out of the passenger business. In a recent talk at Indianapolis he said they were taking another look at passenger business and added, "We might stay in it. We might try to get out." He declared his company showed a net loss of \$1,220,000 on passenger service in '56.

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T. P. & W. CONTROL OKAYED: - The I.C.C. has approved the plan of the Santa Fe and the Pennsylvania to control the T. P. & W. Railroad through the acquisition of stock, effective July 16. Under the plan the Santa Fe will purchase from the T. P. & W. its capital stock of 90,000 shares at \$135 a share and in turn dispose of half of that amount to the Pennsylvania Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In approving the plan the I.C.C. denied the application of the Rock Island and the Nickel Plate to be included on an equal basis, and rejected an application of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company for authority to acquire control of the T. P. & W.

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AVOIDABLE COSTS TO BE STUDIED: - The Aeronautical Research Foundation of Cambridge, Mass., is going to make "an independent study of the so-called 'avoidable costs' of passenger train service" under a grant of \$25,000 from the Association of American Railroads. The Foundation, announcing the survey, said it was accepted on "the explicit condition" and the "expressed desire" of the AAR that the survey "be wholly independent and objective."

The Foundation said its research team would have full sway in studying the question, and expects the results will be published in September. The Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1947 to encourage group research by members of Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, although it is not connected with either institution.

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CONDUCTORS, BRAKEMEN GET HIKE: - The wage dispute between the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen and the Nation's railroads on the basis of a package agreement of 26 and a half cents an hour over a three-year period has been announced by the National Mediation Board. The agreement calls for road conductors to receive a first-year wage increase of 12 and a half cents an hour, effective Nov. 1 last, second and third year increases of 7 cents an hour each will become effective Nov. 1, 1957 and Nov. 1, 1958. The agreement also contains a clause which prevents further wage increases or decreases becoming effective before Nov. 1, 1959.

An escalator clause geared to cost of living indexes is also in the agreement.

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DEMURRAGE CHARGE UP JULY 1: - Railroads will make effective on July 1, according to present plans, an increase in demurrage costs. The new rates will be \$4 per day for the first four days beyond free time, and \$8 per day thereafter. As to Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, they will be included in computing charges on both straight-plan and average-agreement cars, after a car has been held four working days, or two such days beyond the free time.

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EXPRESS RATE BOOST IN EAST: - The I. C. C. has authorized an 11 per cent increase for Railway Express small quantity shipments in the Eastern territory. The boost, affecting shipments of less than one car-load, may become effective on a 15-days notice.

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

C. C. Lane, safety supervisor, headquarters, Tulsa, effective June 1.

D. C. Gement, assistant roadmaster - Northern Division, headquarters, Fort Scott, effective June 1.

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FRISCO LOADINGS: - For period June 8 to June 14, 1957, inclusive, Frisco revenue freight loaded on-line and received from connections totaled 15,599, compared with 14,177 for the previous 7-day period and a total of 18,422 for the corresponding period last year.

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REVENUE FREIGHT: - Loading of revenue freight for the Nation's railroads for the week ended June 8 totaled 733,477 cars. This was a decrease of 53,598 cars or 6.8 per cent below the corresponding week in 1956, and a decrease of 48,461 cars or 6.2 per cent below the corresponding week in 1955. Loadings in the week ended June 8 were 61,692 cars or 9.2 per cent above the preceding week. Loading of commodities for the week ended June 8 compared with the preceding week this year and the corresponding week one year ago follows:

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Coal	138,842	126,147	131,641
Miscellaneous freight	348,681	317,871	382,603
Merchandise L. C. L.	53,121	48,529	59,622
Grain and grain products	47,184	43,232	56,686
Livestock	5,113	4,388	6,278
Forest products	41,332	37,192	48,743
Ore	88,583	84,391	88,244
Coke	10,621	10,035	13,258