RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, 1898-1969
(3 cubic feet; 6DB; 3(.5) DB)

History
In 1860 there were three principal transcontinental mail and express routes: By ship from New York to Panama then by portage across the Isthmus to the West Coast and finally back to sea for the last leg to San Francisco; Second, the Butterfield and Fargo Stageline operating from St. Louis through the Indian Territory along the Santa Fe Trail and up to Los Angeles to San Francisco; and third the stageline of Russell, Majors, and Waddell, which traveled from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas to Denver, then over the mountains to Salt Lake City and California terminating in San Francisco. Early in 1860 the Pony Express concept was formed and operated from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. The end of the Pony Express came in 1861 when the telegraph line connected Omaha and San Francisco and officially ended on Oct. 26, 1861.

On November 1, 1866 Wells Fargo & Co. purchased the stage and Pony Express operations from Ben Holladay. At this time there were several express companies; however, by 1914 there were only seven. During World War I these seven companies were consolidated at the direction of the Federal Government into one nationwide organization, the American Railway Express Agency. In 1929 the nations railroads bought the express business and changed the name to Railway Express Agency, Inc. In November 1960 REA Express was adopted as the Company’s trade name. In October 1960 acquired Fast Service Shipping Terminals Inc. In January 1961 formed REA Leasing Corp a trailer leasing company. In February 1965 formed with Seven Arts Associated Corp. and Travel Theaters Inc. REA Express-Seven Arts Transvision, Inc. In 1965 sold 32 terminals and leased them back. In April 1967 formed REA Express Canada, Ltd. In May 1967 formed Rexco Supply Corp. to conduct tire recapping and automotive parts distribution business. In February 1970 formed The Express Co., Inc. as a subsidiary of REA Holding Corp to conduct an international air freight forwarding business.

On February 21, 1975 the Company filed a petition under Chapter XI of the Bankruptcy Act in Federal Court in New York County listing assets of $41,000,000 and liabilities of $55,000,000. Company said the reasons for the petition included losses created by years of railroad domination as well as high rate of inflation, a recent decline in express shipments, and limited availability of credit.

Scope and Content Note
This collection consists of records, manuals, Federal Regulations, forms, photographs, engineering drawings of buildings, and technical publications relative to rail car wheel brakes.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into eight series: Series 1, Adams Express Company; Series 2, Railway Express Agency-Printed Material; Series 3, Engineering Drawings & Publications; Series 4, Forms—Air & Rail; Series 5, Personnel Materials; Series 6, Schedules & Routes; Series 7, Rates, Rules, and Regulations; and Series 8, Notebook—Bulletins & Circulars. Series 1 contains a delivery book from 1900 and operating expenses from 1912-1913. Series 2 contains a variety of railway instruction manuals and bulletins from 1923 to 1968. Series 3 consists of a variety of correspondence and technical drawings and sketches from 1898 to 1970. Series 4 contains forms for air and railway transit from 1929 to 1964. Series 5 consists of personnel bulletins and instructions from 1932 to 1963. Series 6 contains directories and lists of cars and offices used from 1931 to 1964. Series 7 contains rate change bulletins and regulation circulars from 1949 to 1962. Series 8 contains prevention circulars of policy instructions from 1929 to 1962; most are contained in a black notebook found in box 2.

Provenance

Donated by Roger F.R. Karl, P.E., Consulting Engineer

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Container List

Series 1: Adams Express Company

1  1  Adams Express Company, “Inward Way-Bill and Delivery Book,” April 28, 1899 to March 4, 1900.

Operating Expenses: July - December 1912; July and August 1913.

Series 2: Railway Express Agency-Printed Material

1  McCarthy, D.A., American Railway Express Company, Agent, Erie Terminal, Jersey City, New Jersey, Register of Money, Valuables, etc. June 11, 1923 to October 2, 1923.


Instructions Covering Uniform System of Stamping Delivery Sheets; Joint Circular Accounting Division No. 77-E, effective October 1, 1959.


2  “Uniform System of Accounts for Express Companies prescribed by ICC,” effective July 1, 1914.

Interpretations of Classifications Embodied in the Uniform System of Accounts for Express Companies Prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), effective January 1, 1917, Accounting Bulletin No.13. (Two copies)


Railway Express Agency INSTRUCTIONS Governing: Preparation of Shipments for Delivery, Preparation of Chargeout Forms, Charging Out Shipments to Deliverymen, Carry-Over of Undelivered Shipments, Accepting Deliverymen’s Settlements, Preparing Remittance and Paid C.O.D. Reports, and Preparing Recapitulation of Deliverymen’s Settlements


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4 Air Express Loss and Damage Claims Year 1960.


5 Miscellaneous Notes

Series 3: Engineering Drawings & Publications

1 Report-West Side Terminal Building Condition, August 20, 1970.

2 Contents of building at 219 E. 42nd Street and miscellaneous drawings and sketches, undated


4 Description of the Freight and Express Refrigerator Cars of the United States - Freight Refrigerators as of July 1, 1926 and Express Refrigerators as of Jan. 1, 1927.


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“SAB Brake Regulator, Type DRV,” Pamphlet No 661, American SAB Company, Inc., June 1953


6 Correspondence and related material regarding the demolition of property at Village, Compton, Albion, and Lucas Street, Boston, MS, January 24, 1941 to August 6, 1941.

Case II Drawer 19 Drawing of the demolished building dated August 13, 1969.

Photographs: Case II, Drawer 19.

2 1 Correspondence from Chicago Files parts of years 1898, 1899, and the 1900’s; correspondence from Richmond, Va. office for parts of years 1921 1922, 1930, and 1931 with respect to the Logan, West Virginia office and other miscellaneous correspondence from offices from the years to 1951. Contains references to the flood conditions at Huntington, West Virginia, 1937, and to the Florida Hurricanes of 1947, 1948, and 1949.


4 Black Notebook with floor plans for New York City facilities—a typewritten note by Roger F.R. Karl, P.E. has a summary of the contents and places the date of the material at about 1940.

Series 4: Forms—Air & Rail

3 1 Green Looseleaf folder of “Air Express Forms,” 1954.

2 Two brown Looseleaf folders of “Rail Express Forms”. One folder with an inside cover “REA Forms Frequently Used,” with form numbers from 0 to 992, and another brown folder with numbers from 1000 to 8013 dated September 1945.

4 1 Blank forms such as 98, 99, 129, 650 3005, and 7058. Some looseleaf sheets for notebook with attached forms and stickers for employee work relations. Various dates from March 1929 to August 1955.

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3 Loose-leaf pages of miscellaneous forms including Delivery Sheet, Prepaid and Collect forms, Employee Application for Group Insurance and Dependents Group Hospital Insurance, Receipt for Premium Payment by Absent Employee; many may duplicate forms given in previous folders.

4 Miscellaneous forms such as 4-A, 114, 567, 916, and 5016. Includes shipping labels and special Christmas labels.


Form for “Air Express Agreement between Railway Express Agency, Incorporated and______,” Effective August 1, 1954.


**Series 5: Personnel Materials**


Express Employees Sick Benefit Association, Railway Express Agency, Inc., New York City Department, Constitution and Bylaws, 1932.

Agreement Governing Hours of Service and Working Conditions between the Railway Express Agency and Employees Thereof Effective September 1, 1949; and Effective January 1, 1967. (Both Represented by the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees)

Agreement Governing Hours of Service and Working Conditions Between the Railway Express Agency and Employees Thereof Effective January 1, 1963. (Represented by the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, & Helpers of America)

Constitution and Statutes of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, effective on and after July 1, 1963.

2 Handbook for Railway Express Employees, (1953?)

Manual of Hiring Procedures, Department of Personnel, October 1, 1954. (Two copies)

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Hotel Directory, For Personnel Required to Travel on Company Business, Issued by Department of Personnel January 1, 1958.


4  Management Fundamentals, ... , Books 9 through 14, January 19, 1956 to April 26, 1956.

5  Management Fundamentals, ... , Books 15 through 19, May 10, 1956 to July 26, 1956.


**Series 6: Schedules & Routes**


4  “Rail Assorting Guide for Greater New York,” Issued January 10, 1933; April 1, 1946; and April 1, 1944.


5  “Questions and Answers Relating to Car Space Instructions,” General Manager, Transportation, July 1, 1960.


6  “Street Guide for the Borough of Brooklyn and Part of the Borough of Queens,”

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June 1948.

“Motor Truck and Bus Schedules Southwestern Div-Central Reg.,” St. Louis, Missouri, November 1, 1963.


Supplement No. 2 To Directory Over-The-Road Truck Services Index, December 1, 1967.
(Loose-leaf pages)

REA Express Line Haul Services Local Rout Guide Los Angeles, California (Sample, undated)

7  1  Directory Eastern Departments Train Service, Issued by Transportation Department New York, Issue No. 24 September 29, 1940.


**Series 7: Rates, Rules, and Regulations**

8  1  Digest of Changes, Effective August 10, 1949, Named in Supplement No. 31, To Official Express Classification No. 33, I.C.C. No. 4500, Traffic Department, June 28, 1949.

Digest of Changes, Effective September 9, 1949 named in Supplement No. 32 to Official Express Classifications No. 33, I.C.C. No. 4500, August 1, 1949.

Postponement Supplement no. 23 to Official Express Classification No. 34, effective December 26, 1950.

Traffic Department Circular No. 27, Effective May 29, 1950.

Traffic Department Circular No. 28, Effective May 29, 1950.

Traffic Department Circular No. 29, June 7, 1950.


Monthly Supplement to Traffic Department Circular No. 23, Issued April 20, 1953.

Traffic Department Quote and Offer to the United States Government, I.C.C. No. 10, Section 22 Quotation No. 11 January 1, 1960.

2  Special Supplement to Tariffs, INCREASES, effective September 1, 1959. Two Copies)

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Official Express Classification 36 Containing Ratings, and Regulations, effective March 1, 1956.

Supplement 19 to Official Express Classification 36, effective September 1, 1959; also Supplement 20 effective November 19, 1959; Supplement 21 effective December 15, 1959; Supplement 25 effective February 23, 1961; and Supplement 34 effective March 30, 1962.

Local and Joint Tariff No. 16 Containing Interstate and Intrastate Rates and Charges on Import and Export Traffic Applying on Ordinary Merchandise, effective March 25, 1957.

Commodity Tariff No. 18 Containing Local and Joint Interstate Rates and Charges Applying on Drugs, Hosiery, Medicines, Shoes and other Footwear, Toilet Preparations, Wearing Apparel and Articles of Merchandise, effective May 8, 1957 (Two Copies); Commodity Tariff No. 23.A (Cancels 23) effective January 11, 1960; Supplement 35 to Commodity Tariff No. 18 Applying on Miscellaneous Merchandise effective January 17, 1860; Supplement 36 to Commodity Tariff No. 18 Applying on Miscellaneous Merchandise effective February 7, 1960; Supplement 38 to Commodity Tariff No. 18 Applying on Miscellaneous Merchandise effective May 1, 1960

Local and Joint Schedule of First and Second Class Express Rates 18-C effective June 6, 1960.

Commodity Tariff No. 33, Local and Joint Interstate and Intrastate Rates and Charges applying on Automobile Parts, Truck or Trailer Parts, effective June 14, 1960.

Supplement 20 to Local and Joint Tariff No. 16 Import and Export Traffic applying on Ordinary Merchandise, effective March 28, 1961.

Special Additional Charge Supplement Applying on Interstate Traffic also Intrastate Express Traffic effective January 5, 1961; effective February 8, 1962; and effective March 5, 1962.

Series 8: Notebook—Bulletins & Circulars

Prevention Bulletin No. 9, March 1956: “Warning! Do Not Drop or Crush Cut Flowers. Keep From Heat & Frost... Deliver Immediately!”

Black Notebook: Prevention Bulletins; Automotive Department Circular No. 6, Effective May 1, 1951; Financial Circulars April 1, 1947 - June 16, 1953; Treasury Department Circular No. 3 March 18, 1929 – Circular No. 7A New York March 23rd, 1934; Travel Circular No.1, March 25, 1950; Operations and Accounting Joint Circular Accounting Division No. 145, New York, N.Y. February 10,1958; Miscellaneous Joint Circulars and Instructions.

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