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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Railway Express Agency Records
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0260
Date: 1898 - 1969
Extent: 3 Cubic feet (9 boxes)
Creator: Railway Express Agency.
Karl, Roger F. R.
Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of
Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Gift from Roger F.R. Karl, consulting engineer.

Provenance
Transferred from the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, XXXX.

Processing Information
Roger F.R. Karl, 2006

Preferred Citation
Railway Express Agency Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Biographical / Historical

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. Levenworth, 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 Contents

Mainly forms, manuals, federal regulations, accounting instructions, and personnel materials. Included are
labor agreements, an employee handbook, and information on the employees’ sick benefit association.
Other materials include drawings of property owned; and photographs, engineering drawings, technical
publications relating to railroad passenger car brake equipment; also a public relations publication, "The
Pony Express Story."

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into eight series.

Series 1, Adams Express Company

Series 2, Railway Express Agency Printed Material

Series 3, Engineering drawings and publications

Series 4, Air and Mail Forms

Series 5, Personnel materials

Series 6, Schedules and routes

Series 7, Rates, Rules, and Regulations
Series 8, Notebook--Bulletins and Circulars

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Pony express
- Railroads -- Brakes
- Railroads -- Freight
- Transportation

Names:
- Adams Express Company
- American Railway Express Agency
- Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of
- REA Express
Container Listing

Series 1: Adams Express Company

"Inward Way Bill and Delivery Book," , April 28, 1899 to March 4, 1900
Box 1, Folder 1

Operating Expenses, , July December 1912; July and August 1913
Box 1, Folder 1

Return to Table of Contents
Series 2: Railway Express Agency Printed Material

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

Box 1, Folder 1

Operating Expenses Accounts, Uniform System of Accounts for Express Companies Prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), May 28, 1914

Box 1, Folder 1

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

Box 1, Folder 1

Railway Express Agency, Incorporated By-Laws, April 6, 1960

Box 1, Folder 1

REA Express "List of Salaried Offices" Issue, November, 1968

Box 1, Folder 1

"Uniform System of Accounts for Express Companies prescribed by ICC," , effective July 1, 1914

Box 1, Folder 2

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

Box 1, Folder 2

Railway Express Agency "Instructions Governing Receipting Practices, Preparations of Delivery Sheets, and Assessment and Revision of Charges," , issued January 1, 1951

Box 1, Folder 2

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, issued February 1, 1951

Box 1, Folder 2

"Here's How To Process International Shipments Step by Step," REA Express International Department, circa 1961

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 2

"The Pony Express Story," REA Public Relations & Adv. Division, April 3, 1860-October 26, 1861

Box 1, Folder 2

Image(s)

Pony Express Story [booklet], Unknown
1 Item (7.4” x 5.5”)

Image(s)

Karl, Roger F. R., Collector
In box 1, folder 2.

Unrestricted research use by appointment.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers
AC0260-0000001 (AC scan no.)

Topic: Pony express
Genre/Form: Booklets

Railway Express Agency "General Rules and Instructions," New York, July 1, 1948

Box 1, Folder 3

Air Express Loss and Damage Claims, January 11, 1961

Box 1, Folder 4

Claim Payments Air Rail International, 1959 - 1963

Box 1, Folder 4

Miscellaneous Notes, 1956 - 1965

Box 1, Folder 5

Return to Table of Contents
Series 3: Engineering Drawings and Publications

Report West Side Terminal Building Condition, August 20, 1970

Box 1, Folder 1 (text)
Box 7, Folder 10 (text)

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

Box 1, Folder 2

Instruction Pamphlet No. 5050 6, May 1942, "Passenger Car Brake Equipment with D 22 A Control Valve," and Instruction Pamphlet No. 5050, July 7, 1948

Box 1, Folder 3

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, July 1, 1926-Jan. 1, 1927

Box 1, Folder 4

"The Effect of Brake Shoe Action on Thermal Cracking and on Failure of Wrought Steel Railway Car Wheels," Bulletin Series No. 387, University of Illinois Engineering Experiment Station, Urbana, Illinois, June 1950

Box 1, Folder 4

Instruction Pamphlet No 5062, December 1942, "The 'AB' Freight Brake Equipment," Westinghouse Air Brake Company, 1945

Box 1, Folder 5

Instruction Pamphlet No. 5062, Sup. 1, March 1947, "'AB 1 B' Freight Brake Equipment," Westinghouse Air Brake Company, 1947

Box 1, Folder 5

Instruction Pamphlet No. 5041 2, "Westinghouse Pneumatic Type 'D' Automatic Slack Adjuster for Freight Cars," Westinghouse Air Brake Company, November 1951

Box 1, Folder 5

Pamphlet: "Describing all types of The Barber Stabilized Truck With Shimming Instructions," issued by Standard Car Truck Company, 1952

Box 1, Folder 5


Box 1, Folder 5

"SAB Brake Regulator, Type DRV," Pamphlet No 661, American SAB Company, Inc., June 1953
Box 1, Folder 5


Box 1, Folder 5

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

Box 1, Folder 6

Drawing of the demolished building and photographs, August 13, 1969

Map-case 2, Drawer 19

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, 1898 - 1951

Box 2, Folder 1


Box 2, Folder 2


Box 2, Folder 3

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, about 1940

Box 2, Folder 4
Series 4: Air and Rail Forms

Green Looseleaf folder of "Air Express Forms," , 1954

Box 3, Folder 1

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

Box 3, Folder 2

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

Box 4, Folder 1

Loose-leaf pages with attached various forms for "Fast Service Shipping Terminals, Inc." , 1955 - 1964

Box 4, Folder 2

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

Box 4, Folder 3

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

Box 4, Folder 4


Box 4, Folder 5

Form for "Air Express Agreement between Railway Express Agency, Incorporated and ," , Effective August 1, 1954

Box 4, Folder 5

Form for "Standard Express Operations Agreement Between and Railway Express Agency, Incorporated," , Effective October 1, 1959
Series 5: Personnel Materials

Employee Bulletin "Free Enterprise—You, Your Job, Your Company,"

Box 5, Folder 1

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

Box 5, Folder 1

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

Box 5, Folder 1

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

Box 5, Folder 1

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

Box 5, Folder 1

Handbook for Railway Express Employees, (1953?)

Image(s)

Handbook for Railway Express Employees [booklet], Circa 1953
1 Item (7.9” x 5.7”)

Image(s)

Karl, Roger F. R., Collector
Railway Express Agency., Author
In box 5, folder 2.

Unrestricted research use by appointment.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers
AC0260-0000002 (AC scan no.)

Topic: Employees -- Training of
Genre/Form: Booklets

Manual of Hiring Procedures, Department of Personnel. (Two copies), October 1, 1954
Box 5, Folder 2

Supervisory Employee Performance Review Guide, Personnel Department, January 1, 1956

Box 5, Folder 2

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

Box 5, Folder 2

Management Fundamentals, Management and Organization, Personnel Management Books 1 through 8, September 22, 1955 to January 5, 1956

Box 5, Folder 3

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

Box 5, Folder 4

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

Box 5, Folder 5

Miscellaneous material on Training Fundamentals, Loss and Damage Prevention, and Safety, June 1960

Box 5, Folder 6

Miscellaneous printed material related to Loss & Damage Prevention; Instructions for Sealing Baggage Shipments; Form for Check List for Safety Committee, Bulletin No. 3, In the Rare Event of a Damage or Loss Claim; Joint Circular Letter on Instructions for Sealing Baggage Shipments, May 1954; September 1959

Box 5, Folder 6

Return to Table of Contents
Series 6: Schedules and Routes


Box 6, Folder 1

Official Directory, List of Offices with Block Location and Schedule of First and Second Class Express Rates, Eighth Edition, June 1, 1933; & Twelfth Edition (Includes Superintendents & Claim Agents) January 20, 1953, June 1, 1933; January 20, 1953

Box 6, Folder 2

"Directory of Offices & Communities Served," , May 1, 1963

Box 6, Folder 3

"Rail Assorting Guide for Greater New York," , Issued January 10, 1933; April 1, 1946; and April 1, 1944

Box 6, Folder 4


Box 6, Folder 4

"Questions and Answers Relating to Car Space Instructions," General Manager, Transportation, July 1, 1960

Box 6, Folder 5

"Directory of Train Service Central Region," , April 26, 1964

Box 6, Folder 5

"Street Guide for the Borough of Brooklyn and Part of the Borough of Queens," , June 1948

Box 6, Folder 6

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

Box 6, Folder 6

"Air Routing Guide Book No. ," , June 1, 1964

Box 6, Folder 6

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

Box 6, Folder 6
REA Express Line Haul Services Local Rout Guide Los Angeles, California (Sample, undated)

Box 6, Folder 6

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

Box 7, Folder 1

Routing Guide for Hub System VIA Zip Code

Box 7, Folder 2

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Series 7: Rates, Rules, and Regulations

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

Digest of Changes, named in Supplement No. 32 to Official Express Classifications No. 33, I.C.C. No. 4500, August 1, 1949, Effective September 9, 1949
Box 8, Folder 1

Postponement Supplement no. 23 to Official Express Classification No. 34, effective December 26, 1950
Box 8, Folder 1

Traffic Department Circular No. 27, Effective May 29, 1950
Box 8, Folder 1

Traffic Department Circular No. 28, Effective May 29, 1950
Box 8, Folder 1

Traffic Department Circular No. 29, June 7, 1950
Box 8, Folder 1

Traffic Rules and Instructions, General Circular No. 10 D, Issued October 1, 1950
Box 8, Folder 1

Monthly Supplement to Traffic Department Circular No. 23, Issued April 20, 1953
Box 8, Folder 1

Traffic Department Quote and Offer to the United States Government, I.C.C. No. 10, Section 22 Quotation No. 11 , January 1, 1960
Box 8, Folder 1

Special Supplement to Tariffs, INCREASES. (Two Copies), effective September 1, 1959
Box 8, Folder 2

Official Express Classification 36 Containing Ratings, and Regulations, effective March 1, 1956
Box 8, Folder 3

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, effective September 1, 1959;November 19, 1959;December 15, 1959;February 23, 1961;March 30, 1962
Box 8, Folder 3
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

Box 8, Folder 4

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 , May 8, 1957;January 11, 1960;January 17, 1860;February 7, 1960;May 1, 1960

Box 8, Folder 4

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

Box 8, Folder 5

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

Box 8, Folder 6

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

Box 8, Folder 6

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

Box 8, Folder 6
Series 8: Notebook—Bulletins and Circulars

Prevention Bulletin No. 9, Warning! Do Not Drop or Crush Cut Flowers. Keep From Heat and Frost... Deliver Immediately!", 1956 March

Box 9, Folder 1

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, 1929 - 1958

Box 9, Folder 2

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