

Section Three Commentary, Mileposts Columbus-Bradford-Richmond-Indianapolis

PRR's line from Columbus to Bradford branched and went to both Chicago and Indianapolis. We'll concern ourselves with the Indianapolis route here.

Mileposts west of Columbus and to Indy have changed little since 1906's "Indianapolis Division" ETT. The zero milepost has always been at Columbus Union Depot, and over the years we see a consistent mileage counting up to the junction at Bradford, continuing southwest on the single track to New Paris, through Richmond, and then on double track across eastern Indiana to Indianapolis Union Station, always close to 187.9 miles. On the other hand, most of the double track in this line was already laid and grade-reduced by 1906.

A curiosity included in most of these timetables is the mileage "east" of Columbus that was Akron Division and Toledo Division trackage, but was administered as part of Columbus Division so that the Columbus terminal area was not under split management. The "negative" miles shown represent main lines of this terminal trackage extending out to the respective division posts.

Of course, not shown on this "station list" is the main line extending beyond Bradford toward Chicago (the onetime Logansport Division). Those mileposts from Columbus continued beyond Bradford's 83.1 and reached Chicago Union Station at MP 314.1.

Also not shown on this "passenger-oriented" list is the freight line diverging on the east side of Indy at THORNE tower (MP 180.8) to reach Hawthorne Yard.

Sources of the data in hand include:

- from PL Indianapolis Division ETT #12, May 27, 1906 (a "bedsheet")
- from 1923 CT1000, Columbus Division
- from Columbus Division ETT #10, Sept. 29, 1929
- from Columbus Division ETT #26, Sept 26, 1937
- from Columbus Division ETT#1, Sept 28, 1941
- from Columbus Division ETT #4, Nov 14, 1943
- from 1945 CT1000 Columbus Div
- from Columbus Division ETT 5, June 24, 1945
- from Columbus Division ETT 6, April 28, 1946
- from Columbus Division ETT 10, April 10. 1948
- from Columbus Division ETT 16, April 29, 1951
- from Buckeye Region ETT 1, 1956
- from Buckeye Region ETT #7, October 25, 1959
- from Western Region ETT #1, 1964
- from Western Region ETT#5, Oct 30, 1966

However, because the mileposts listed change very little, we present one table here to cover all periods:

1. **MP CC&IC Columbus-Indianapolis (selected dates).**