

New Rail Service Transports Vehicles In 2 Days

Autos bound for south Florida left Tuesday, Oct. 13, from Potomac Yards, Alexandria aboard auto carriers of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad. Owners of the automobiles did not go along for the ride. Next time they see their family autos it will be in Miami.

This new time-and-energy saving method of transporting cars was initiated by Autolog Corporation of Jersey City, N.J., which for a half-dozen years one of the nation's prime transporters of private autos. Before Oct. 13, Autolog moved cars by tractor-trailer trucks.

"Our decision to initiate rail forwarding on the long northeast-to-Miami haul," said Myron Levine, Autolog president, "was because there is a need. We opted to fill the need."

LEVINE CALLS the new rail service "a revival of the defunct Auto-Train concept with an important difference" — the fact that owners are not required to drive long distances to and from the north and south terminals of the service, as was the case with Auto-Train.

Autolog Corporation has terminals throughout the northeast: New York, Boston, Hartford, Providence, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, Albany and Buffalo and the newest in Potomac Yards, eight miles from Washington, D.C.

An attorney who worked for the

Securities and Exchange Commission, Levine waged a long struggle hacking his way through red tape at the Interstate Commerce Commission before Autolog was approved by the U.S. government. One of ICC's fears, he says, "was that as Autolog grew, Auto-Train would suffer."

When Auto-Train chose the Chapter 11 bankruptcy route, finally going out of business last April, Autolog and the demand for its service to Florida increased tremendously.

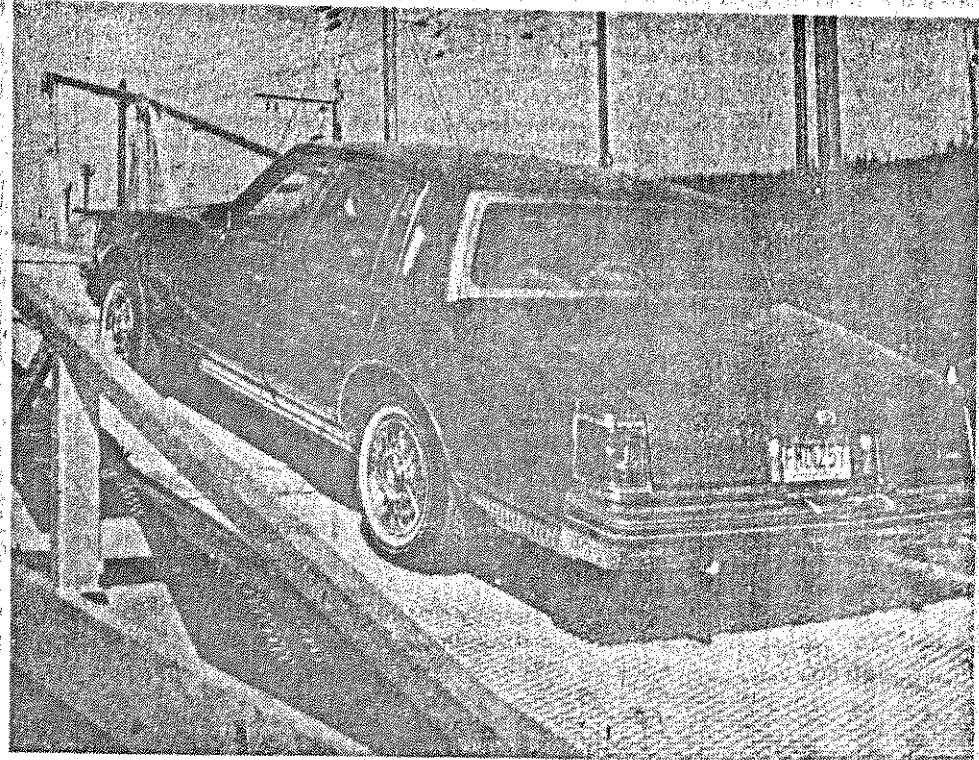
"Our phones literally began ringing off the hook," the Autolog president says.

HE CONSIDERS Autolog's charges for moving a car to Florida "a bargain" and points out that the \$285 one-way fare from Washington to Miami (\$397 New York-Miami) is less than a two-week car rental of a major auto leasing firm.

Automobiles make the Alexandria-to-Miami trip non-stop in two days, using the facilities of three railroads — RF&P, Seaboard and Florida East Coast.

Levine says, "Autolog customers need only tell us when they want their cars to be in Miami for them, and the cars will be there, ready for their vacations.

And so saying, he swung a bottle of champagne against the steel side of the auto-loaded railroad car, christening the new Florida service. Autolog was on its way.



A new transportation era for Florida-bound vacationers began Oct. 13 in the RF&P's Potomac Yards. Family automobiles can make the

Alexandria-to-Miami trip non-stop in two days with Autolog's new time-saving methods. (Staff photo by Robert Weiss)