

Transportation Trivia

Submitted by Alison Felix

The Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964

Fifty years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 into law. The Act passed the House by a vote of 212-129 and cleared the Senate 52-41, creating the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration was charged with providing federal assistance for mass transit projects, including an initial \$375 million in capital assistance for cities and states. MBTA modernized rail stations were among many projects the first round of grants advanced.

The Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 was our country's first attempt to address the challenges of public transportation as a nation, and it focused on preserving transit as a transportation option. In 1991, the Urban Mass Transportation Administration was renamed the Federal Transit Administration.

Sources: US DOT and Wikipedia.

Chicago Transit Authority

Perhaps the only music group named after a mass transit system, the Chicago Transit Authority, released their first album 45 years ago. While the band toured the album, legal action was threatened by the actual Chicago Transit Authority. A simple shortening to "Chicago" was agreed on.

Source: Ultimateclassicrock.com

Use Your Brakes!

Stelvio Pass, Italy

It takes 48 hairpin turns for this road to climb through stunning alpine scenery to reach the second highest paved pass in the Alps, the 9,045-foot Stelvio Pass. Located in northern Italy's Ortler Alps, this is the highest pass traversed by any cycling Grand Tour. Every year, the pass is closed to motor vehicles on one day in August when about 8,000 cyclists ride on the Stelvio.



Caption: The Stelvio Pass, Italy.



Caption: Stelvio Pass Grand Tour

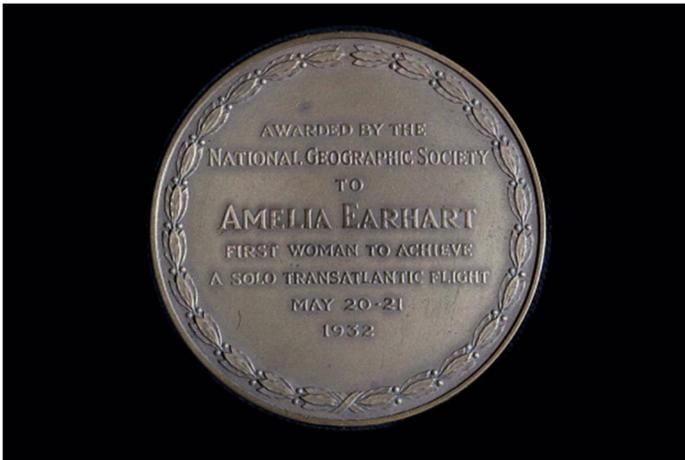
Sources: usatoday.com and roadcyclinguk.com

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart, the first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic, was also the first woman to receive a National Geographic Society gold medal for courage and achievement in 1932.



Caption: Aviator Amelia Earhart with Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor and Dr. John Oliver la Gorce of the National Geographic Society in 1932.



Caption: The National Geographic Society Medal awarded to Aviator Amelia Earhart.

Source: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and Shorpy.com

Ida Lewis (1842-1911) – Lighthouse Keeper

A Lighthouse Keeper, Ida Lewis earned a national reputation for her many heroic rescues of people off the shore of Rhode Island. Estimates of the number of people she rescued at sea range from a minimum of 18 to as high as 36. She was only 17 when her first rescue took place and her last recorded rescue occurred when she was 63 years old.

Because of her many rescues at sea, Ida Lewis became the best-known lighthouse keeper of her day and received many great honors that included a Gold Lifesaving Medal from the US Coast Guard. Her heroism received national acclaim and she was often featured as a strong role model for American girls during her own lifetime and for many years afterwards.

In 1924, Rhode Island officially changed the name of the Lime Rock Lighthouse to the Ida Lewis Rock Lighthouse—the only such honor ever paid to a Lighthouse Keeper in the United States.



Caption: Ida Lewis

Sources: womenshistory.com, ocean.happeningmag.com, Wikipedia

WTS-Boston Newsletter Co-Chairs Paige Colton and Heather Ostertog along with their Board Liaison Irene Shea would like to thank Alison Felix for providing the newsletter with this article. They would also like to thank Newsletter Committee members Joann Helzel, Kristen Whitman and Kristine Gorman along with the Communication Committee and WTS President Alison Lima and WTS Vice President Rachael Sack.