Don Phillips
Noted Transportation Journalist

Tuesday, July 16, 2013
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: The Transportation Center
Northwestern University
Chambers Hall, 600 Foster St., Evanston

Passenger trains on freight railroads:
truth is a constant casualty

In addition to passenger trains on freight railroads (and truth), Don Phillips will cover these additional subjects:

- Despite happy-happy talk, what is Boardman really doing?
- Is oil by rail the beginning of a revolution, or a temporary expedient until pipelines can be built?
  Even the most skeptical railroaders now see a revolution. Why? What could go wrong?
- Are we really winning the battle to protect our right to take pictures of trains?

Speaker Bio: Don Phillips has been a newspaper reporter and freelance magazine journalist for almost 50 years, dating to his experience as a reporter and editor for The Plainsman, the student newspaper at Auburn University in Alabama. Following college, Phillips went to work for United Press International in Atlanta, covering state government and civil rights, then becoming Atlanta bureau manager in 1969. In 1970, he transferred to Washington where he spent three years editing and then a decade covering Congress. At UPI, he covered the formation of Amtrak in 1971, the creation of Conrail from the lines of bankrupt Eastern and Midwestern railroads in 1976, and transportation deregulation in the early 1980’s.

Phillips joined The Washington Post in 1985. He was weekend National editor for three years, and also helped the congressional staff for a year during a staff shortage before taking the transportation beat. Phillips specialized in aviation and rail safety, airlines and railroads as a business, the ups and downs of Amtrak, transportation legislation in Congress and the politics of transportation. He covered the merger of Conrail into Norfolk Southern and CSX in 1999. During his tenure at the Washington Post, he covered every major airline crash and train wreck, beginning with the crash of a United Airlines DC-10 in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1989.

In 2004, Phillips joined The International Herald Tribune in Paris for two years, covering all forms of transportation as well as the ongoing awakening of Europe to the need to spend billions of euros to build new high-speed railroads and modern highways, avoiding the transportation gridlock of the United States today.

Retiring from daily journalism in 2006, Phillips now writes regularly for magazines, including Trains Magazine where he has written a transportation column for most of the last 35 years.