

LAST MINUTE MEMBERSHIP NEWS (Wednesday, March 24, 1999)

NAOMI HULL (501-945-7386) called this morning to report the following urgent news:

POLLY CHURCH was taken to a nursing center in Russellville, Arkansas for what has been described as possible "early Alzheimer's disease." The story unfolded this week, when, after repeated attempts to contact Polly, the Hulls' called her church secretary at Central Baptist Church in North Little Rock early March 24. The secretary said that Polly was ill and was taken to the LEGACY LODGE NURSING HOME in Russellville, Arkansas, earlier in the week by her brother Joe Phillips, also of Russellville.

Naomi talked to Mr. Phillips at length and he said he had been to the Church's house in North Little Rock to check mail, the house, and also went to the Lonoke Nursing Center to advise Bill Church (a resident there) of his wife's condition. Bill was quoted as saying that "Polly can't be sick - she has to be well to take care of me." Mr. Phillips wasn't sure that Bill really understood the situation, however.

Apparently, Polly spent a week in Memorial Hospital in North Little Rock before going to Russellville. Psychiatrists and Neurologists checked her and think it might be "early Alzheimer's disease," but are not certain yet. She was found on her hands and knees recently in their carport by the postman and someone else found her locked out of the house in pajamas only. Ladies from their church had been spending time with Polly at their house before she was taken to Memorial and Russellville.

Bronchial flu is going around the Legacy Lodge and Polly has it as well.

Mr. Phillips said they will consider if Bill can be moved to Legacy Lodge so he and Polly can be together. Bill's railroad pension will pay for his expenses but not for both he and Polly.

Joe Phillips (Polly's brother, who gave us permission to tell Club members the above information) can be reached in Russellville at 126 Woods Ln, Russellville AR 72802-1011, 501-968-2021. The Legacy Lodge's address is: 900 West 12th St, Russellville AR 72801-6699, 501-968-5858. Naomi and Gene's phone number is: 501-945-7386.

In other last-minute news, BOB SANDAGE had triple heart bypass surgery on February 23. He entered the hospital on February 19 after a heart attack. He was released March 1 and is at home recovering very well. His address is: 163 Hibiscus Dr., Maumelle Ar 72113-5820, 501-851-6912. (Thanks to Bob's wife, Joan, for this information).

(Since the April *Railroader* was sent to the printer March 15, it was already printed before this news and just by luck I hadn't mailed it yet, so I could include the above information. Also, the tragic Amtrak/truck fatal accident in Illinois of March 16 will not be in the April issue for the same reason. I will have full details in the May issue, along with a poem called "No One Asks The Engineer" written by member Daryl Stout about railroad crossing safety.

Gene Hull's two-part story about the Panama Railroad begins with the enclosed issue and will be concluded in the May issue. The June issue will feature a Mike Adams story about Cricket, Arkansas on the Mo. Pac's White River line with several photos.)