

ARKANSAS RAILROADER  
The Arkansas Railroad Club Newsletter  
Vol. 1, No. 1                      January, 1970

ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB ORGANIZED . . On Sunday, November 9, 1969, a meeting was held in the Missouri Pacific Union Station to organize a club for those interested in railroads, especially those of Arkansas. Twenty-three people signed the membership roster. Those present discussed the possible aims and activities of the proposed group. Briefly, these goals were decided to be the promotion of interest in railroads -- past, present and future -- by both club members and the general public and the acquisition and/or preservation of railroad equipment and artifacts for educational and historical purposes. The formation of a non-profit corporation was deemed the first step toward attaining these goals.

The following temporary officers were elected: J. Harlen Wilson, president; Clifton E. Hull, vice-president; George R. Holt, secretary; C. R. Byrd, treasurer. A constitutional committee was also elected with Richard Grigsby as chairman and Walter M. Adams, Anthony Grigsby, Earl Saunders and Tom Shock as members.

The name Arkansas Railroad Club was chosen for the new organization and the second Sunday afternoon of each month was adopted as the regular meeting date.

After the business session several people entertained the group with movies and slides. Others attending the first meeting were Robert L. Dortch, Jr.; Leroy Garrison, Jr.; Johnnie Gray; John Baskin Harper; Paul F. Moon; C. H. Ost; Phil Powledge; Boyd T. Pyle; Jack F. See, Jr.; David Toler; Jim Wakefield; Stanley Wozencraft; Robert B. Wright and Bruce L. Young. Lloyd Neal of Stone Mountain, Georgia, attended in spirit only because of a distance problem.

MEETINGS HELD . . Subsequent meetings were held December 14, 1969 and January 11, 1970. At the December meeting Bill Robbins announced the availability of a flanged-wheel 1951 Chevrolet station wagon to any worthy group willing to move it from Southern Missouri. The membership voted in favor of trying to obtain it. President Jim Wilson also announced the acquisition of a caboose stove, temporarily stored at his home.

CLUB INCORPORATED . . On December 31, 1969, the Arkansas Railroad Club, Inc., was chartered by the state of Arkansas as a non-profit corporation. This development was announced at the January meeting. Under the charter the members of the constitutional committee were designated the board of directors, empowered to elect officers and conduct other business of the corporation. Several proposals were voted by the members as recommendations to the board for adoption. One of these was that the temporary officers be elected to serve for the year of 1970.

TWO CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDED . . Another recommendation was that two classes of membership be available. Regular Membership at \$ 5.00 per year, open to anyone, and Associate Membership at \$ 3.00 per year, non-voting, for those outside the state who are unable to attend regularly, but wish to be informed of and participate in special events. Both classes of membership would receive the club newsletter. Dues should be sent to C. R. Byrd, Treasurer, 6815 Dahlia Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72209.

BOARD MEETING . . Immediately after the January meeting a meeting of the Board of Directors was held and both of the recommendations voted by the membership were adopted -- the temporary officers were named to serve for the calendar year of 1970 and two classes of membership were designated, as outlined above.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULED . . Over his protests Jim Wakefield was elected editor of the club newsletter, which is to be published at least six times a year. Earl Saunders, the loser (?), was drafted as assistant. Herewith are some of our ideas for the newsletter's content and an appeal for suggestions and assistance from the readers.

1. Club Activities -- A brief summary of each regular meeting, notice of acquisitions by the club, announcement of future activities, including the monthly meeting.
2. Rail News -- Events or activities of Arkansas railroads that are not normally covered by regular news media.
3. Arkansas Railroad History -- Biographies of Arkansas railroads, trains, locomotives or rolling stock. Studies of segments of major railroads, operating or abandoned.

We are especially in need of help with Items 2 and 3. Please let us know if the items above are of interest to you and what additional facets of the Arkansas railroad scene you would like covered. We are open to suggestions for department names as well as a name for the newsletter. Several have been suggested to us -- some of them are printable.

Contributions, comments and suggestions for the newsletter should be sent to Jim Wakefield, Box 331, Beebe, Arkansas 72012, or to Earl Saunders, 242 Kingsrow Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72207. Criticisms should be directed to the editor, compliments to his assistant.

This first edition of the newsletter is being mailed to all those who have attended any of the club's meetings. Also to anyone else we believe would be interested in railroads of Arkansas. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our group, let us know and we will send them information and a copy of the newsletter.

L. C. L. . . Word from Bill Robbins that the Chevy station wagon/railcar is ours -- we are making arrangements to get it as soon as possible. . . . Letter from our Georgia member Lloyd Neal with news of fantrips and also some train-off announcements from his area (they're doing it there, too!) and a newspaper clipping with story and picture of a Southern freight train derailment (they're doing that there, too!) for the benefit of our president Jim Wilson who is a Southern fan . . . Since our last meeting we have a membership application and check for dues from Tom Long of the Reader Railroad . . . Come to think of it, with Wilson, Ost, Pyle and now Long we will soon have organized the entire Reader.

#### FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Arkansas Railroad Club will be held Sunday afternoon, February 8, 1970. Time is 2:30 P.M. and the place is again in Room 305 Missouri Pacific Union Station, Markham and Victory Streets, Little Rock.