



# ARKANSAS RAILROADER



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Collection of John M. Martin

SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT... As the lines disappear and are erased from the map of Arkansas, we present this glimpse of the Rock we remember. Red and Black F-units, outside braced cabooses and a special memory that was only The Rock.



A KALMBACH PUBLICATION

# Trains

THE MAGAZINE OF RAILROADING

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414-272-2060

December 5, 1983

Mr. Ken W. Ziegenbien, Editor  
Arkansas Railroader  
905 Valerie Drive  
N. Little Rock, AR 72118

Just a note, Mr. Ziegenbien,

to tell you with how much enthusiasm I read your publication--a distinct credit to you, the Little Rock Chapter, and the National Railway Historical Society.

The current December 1983 issue is, in my estimation, outstanding; I particularly enjoyed Gene Hull's account of the Pine Bluff-built 800's of the Cotton Belt, and of course the Amtrak derailment account was essential reading.

Please keep up the good work and know how much it is appreciated up here in Milwaukee.

Cordially,

Editor

David P. Morgan/jkh

The preceding letter from the editor of TRAINS is a tribute to all of you who have contributed material to the ARKANSAS RAILROADER. This has to be the easiest newsletter to edit since most of the stories are donated by members. The research and news gathering by associate editor John Martin is especially appreciated. Thanks to all.

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## \$ \$ DUES \$ \$

Dues are now due. They are \$10.00 per year for members living in Arkansas and \$7.50 for out-of-state. If you wish to pay your NRHS dues at the same time, NRHS dues are \$9.00 per year in addition to Arkansas Railroad dues.

Make your checks out to: ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB and mail your dues to the club treasurer DICK BYRD, 12 Flintwood Drive, Little Rock AR 72207.

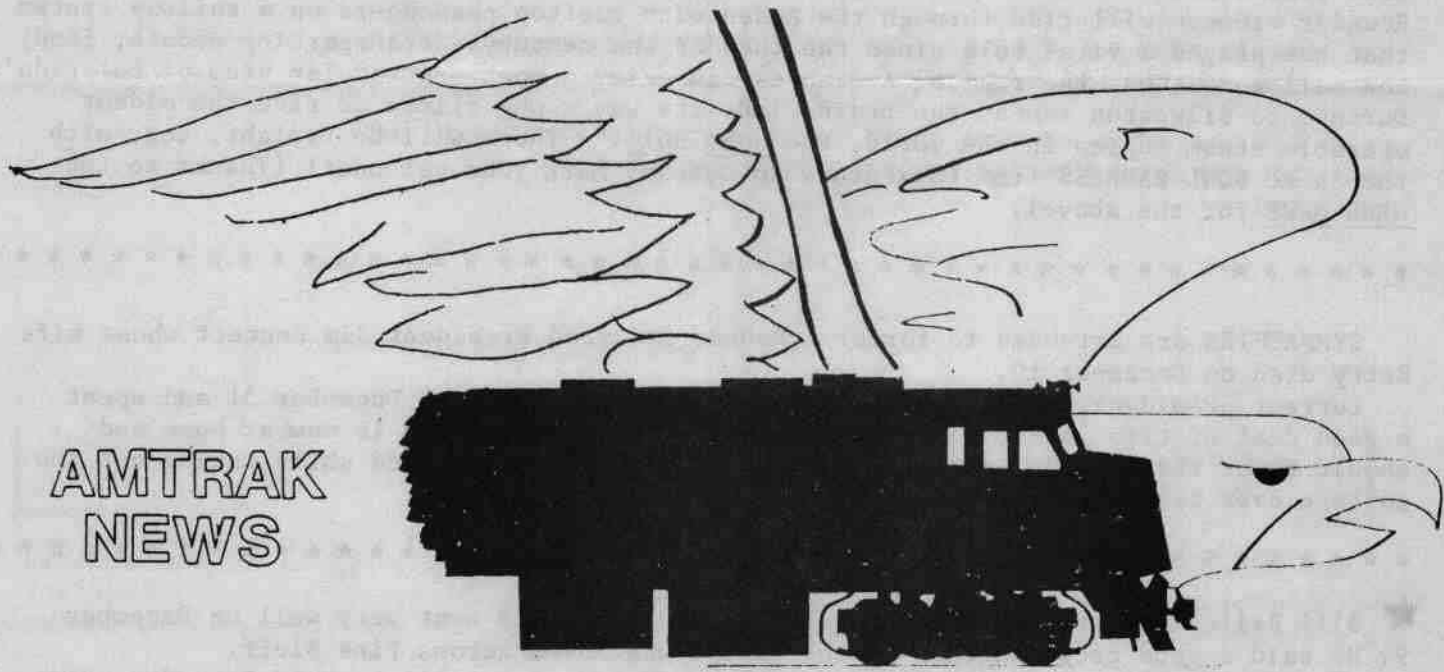
The ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB is a non-profit organization of railroad enthusiasts who meet once a month on the second Sunday of the month. Current meeting place is the Train Station in Little Rock, Markham and Victory Streets. The meetings convene at 2pm. Everyone is invited and bring those friends.

The ARKANSAS RAILROADER, the official publication of the Arkansas Railroad Club, is edited by Ken Ziegenbein, 905 Valerie Drive, North Little Rock AR 72118. Tel (501)-758-1340. Send material for publication to this address. The newsletter is published once a month and you must be a dues paying member of the Arkansas Railroad Club to receive it, or be voted a complimentary membership:



A Southbound Cotton Belt Manifest with an Elephant-Ear'd GP-40X #7231 leading the pack, slams across the Rock Island diamond at Brinkley, Arkansas. A train of Auto Parts follows. This year the ARKANSAS RAILROADER will present a guide to Cotton Belt Trains, along the lines of this year's Guide to MoPac Trains, along with many other features and items of interest.

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THE EAGLE FLEW DAILY -- During the Christmas Holiday Period, Amtrak's Eagle flew daily trips between Chicago, Ill., Little Rock and San Antonio, Tx. This addition to Amtrak's Service brought many folks home for the Holidays that the perviously booked tri-weekly trains would not have. Despite the extremely cold and snowy weather, the trains completed their mission, leaving cancelled flights and bus-bound passengers stranded in their tracks. Things were not without some problems, like passengers having to endure the extreme cold in a heaterless waiting room at Little Rock Union Station, and many-hour late trains due the the weather and a "Cold Weather" slow order on the T&P restricting The Eagle to cool 50 m.p.h. But it also brought some surprises, the first glimpse of AMFLEET II cars strolled thru the Little Rock area on substitute conventional trains due to the late Superliner consists. But all in all, the Holidays went well. Next month we'll include some of those interesting consists and More Amtrak News...





PROGRAM



The January meeting will be held at the usual place, Union Station, Markham and Victory Streets, Little Rock at 2pm Sunday, January 8, 1984. The program promises to be exciting. Speaking will be William F. Hillebrandt, General Manager for the Missouri Pacific/ Union Pacific (Union Pacific System)'s Eastern District.

Mr. Hillebrandt will discuss MoPac operations in Arkansas and in North Little Rock and throughout the entire district.

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★ Member Robert G. Winn of 433 E. Prospect St, Fayetteville, AR 72701 says that there may have been a railroad in Newton County at one time. As you may know, Newton County has been reported as the only county in Arkansas that never had a railroad. However, Mr. Winn has heard of information that may prove a railroad did at one time extend from Spadra on the banks of the Arkansas River near Clarksville into Newton County. A recent contact told him that the contact's grandfather was a fireman on a road that extended to Fallsville.

A young mountaineer who has walked more miles than any other man alive through these Ozark forests, told Mr. Winn that he came upon an old railroad bed near Salus. The young man, Donald Mayes of Springdale, said the roadbed was near a lookout tower on a mountain. He wasn't sure it was in Newton or Johnson County.

This mystery railroad, if it does exist, is not mentioned in the railroad "bible" of Shortline railroads in Arkansas (SHORTLINE RAILROADS of ARKANSAS by Gene Hull).

Any information, no matter how small, you can furnish Mr. Winn about this old Newton County railroad will be greatly appreciated.

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★ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIAL about trains to air February 8, 1984...

This special program is entitled LOVE THOSE TRAINS. A press release notes: "With the strains of Glenn Miller's popular recording 'CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO' viewers will travel aboard an old steam engine train for a ride from Alabama to Tennessee. In Ecuador viewers will ride through the Andes with rooftop passengers on a railway system that has played a vital role since the turn of the century - transporting people, food, and mail throughout the region. Audiences can enjoy a most spectacular view of Colorado's Durango to Silverton run as the train winds its way along cliffs or ride the oldest operable steam engine in the world, the John Bull." There will be freight, too, with the SALAD BOWL EXPRESS from California to Gotham. Mark your calendar! (Thanks to the NRHS NEWS for the above).

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SYMPATHIES are extended to former Arkansas Railroad President Jim Bennett whose wife Betty died on December 10.

Current president, Randy Tardy, fell and broke his left arm December 31 and spent a good deal of time in St. Vincents Hospital in Little Rock. He is now at home and should be at the meeting Sunday, January 8. His accident occurred while taking out the garbage over ice-covered grounds.

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★ Bill Bailey reported that the move of Cotton Belt #819 went very well on December 9. He said a good crowd watched as the engine was moved across Pine Bluff.

A general meeting of the Cotton Belt Historical Society will be held Saturday, Jan 7 to discuss the future of this engine. It is said that some surplus parts from SP #4449 will fit the 819, and this would be a great help in restoring the 819 to a running condition someday.

The Cotton Belt Historical Society will begin issuing a newsletter soon.

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★ Will Amtrak return to Oklahoma? Well, according to various sources, it probably will and in the not too distant future. Lawrence Gibbs, editor of the DISPATCHER (Central Ok Railfan Club newsletter), said he heard a decision would be forthcoming by the middle of January.

Among the possibilities: Springfield to Tulsa to Oklahoma City; Newton to Dallas via Oklahoma City; Kansas City to Tulsa to Dallas using the Frisco much of the way. At any rate, by the time the next ARKANSAS RAILROADER comes off the press, we may have a new passenger train to talk about, at least on paper.