

ARKAASAS RAILKOADER

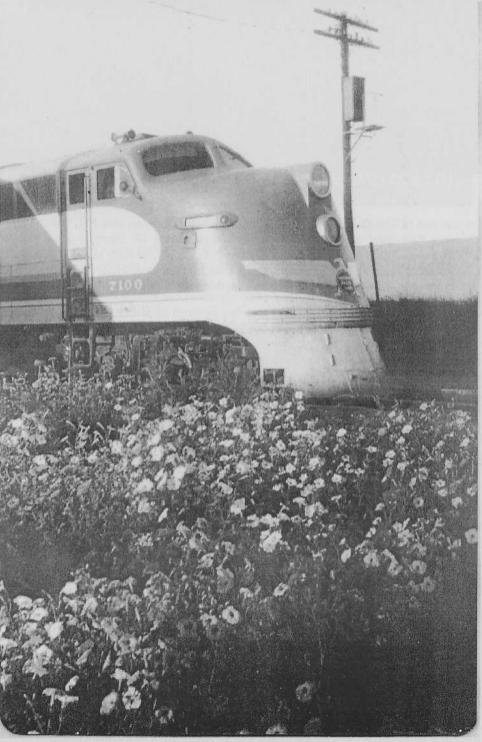


Little Rock Chapter NRHS

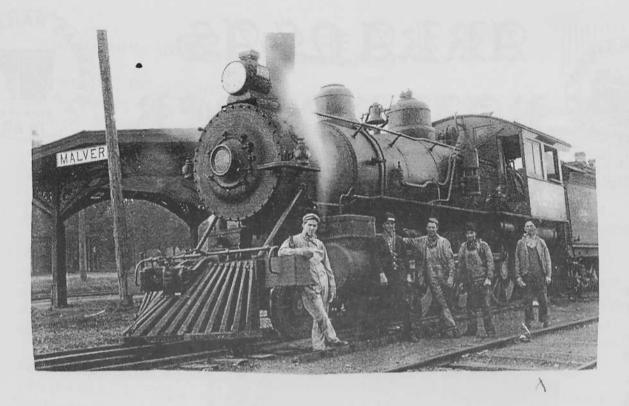
VOLUME 31 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2000

HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Missouri Pacific's *Delta Eagle* leaving Helena, Arkansas with a bed of flowers near the track. Date was late 1940s or early 1950s. (*Randy Tardy photo*)



The photo above was sent to Ken Ziegenbein via the Internet by Mark Bromley, Box 161, Cabot Vermont 05647 (who saw the *Arkansas Railroader* on Ken's web page, Trainweather.com). Mr. Bromley doesn't know the first thing about trains, but sifting through old photos of his grandfather, P. L. Easley, he came across a postcard photo, date unknown, of his grandfather next to a train in Malvern, Arkansas. He was a conductor for the Rock Island Line. Mark still has his lantern, hat and watch. If anyone knows anything about this photo, you can call him at 802-563-3370. The photo is in .JPG format.



The rear car of the 8-car *Johnny Cash Special* in March 1978 had Johnny Cash with Arkansas Governor David Pryor to his left on the platform. The train was photographed near Rison, Arkansas on its tour across this part of Arkansas. (Cash's home town is Kingsland, Arkansas). It was pulled by SP bicentennial engine #3197. (Ken Ziegenbein photo)

2000 OFFICERS/POSITIONS OF THE ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB

PRESIDENT - John Hodkin, Jr., 506 Gordon St, N Little Rock AR 72117-4713 (501-945-2128)

VICE-PRESIDENT - Jim Wakefield, 316 Auburn Dr, Little Rock AR 72205-2769 (501-664-0232)

TREASURER - Walter B. Walker, 8423 Linda Ln, Little Rock AR 72227-5983 (501-225-0826)

<u>SECRETARY</u> - Sharon Doyal, 453 Indianhead Rd, Austin AR 72007-9478 (501-843-4216)

EDITOR - Ken Ziegenbein, 1023 Claycut Cir, N Little Rock AR 72116-3728 (501-758-1340)

NRHS DIRECTOR - Jim Bennett, 1002 South Leslie St, Stuttgart AR 72160 (870)-673-6753)

PHOTOGRAPHER - John C. Jones, 117 Cottonwood, Sherwood AR 72120-4011 (501-835-3729)

TRIP ADVERTISING - David P. Hoge, 3721 Idlewild, N Little Rock AR 72116 (501-771-1025)

BOARD '00 - Gene Hull, 3507 E Washington #31, North Little Rock AR 72114-6455 (501-945-7386)

BOARD '01 - Tom Shook, 1716 Alberta Dr. Little Rock AR 72227-3902 (501-225-8955)

BOARD '02 - Bill Bailey, 8318 Reymere Dr, Little Rock AR 72227-3944 (501-224-6828)

BOARD '03 - Robin Thomas, 10980 Rivercrest Dr #26, Little Rock AR 72212-1412

BOARD '04 - Ron Esserman, 326 Esserman Ln, Dover AR 72837-7754 (501-331-2030)

NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM

The ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB is a non-profit organization of railroad and train enthusiasts (prototype trains, not model trains) that was formed in 1969. We are also the Little Rock Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. We meet on the second Sundays of most months at 2 p.m.

Dues to join the ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB are currently \$20 a year, which includes the monthly 16-24 page Arkansas Railroader newsletter. If you'd like to join the NRHS through our club (thus being a member of the Little Rock Chapter NRHS and national NRHS), you must pay \$17 a year more, bringing the total to \$37 a year for both. Dues are always payable on January 1st of each year, but you may pay at any time (membership will extend through the following year).

To join, send your name, address and phone number plus dues to the ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB, PO BOX 9151, NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72119. Call 501-758-1340 for information. The newsletter editor's email address is: ken.z.rw@ix.netcom.com The Arkansas Railroader is put on the Web monthly, and that address is: http://www.trainweather.com

<u>LIBRARY RAILROAD DISPLAY</u> - The Central Arkansas Library on Rock Street in Little Rock will have a display of railroad artifacts in March. If you have any you can donate for the display, contact Jan Emberton at the library at 501-918-3000. They want such items as lanterns, timetables, caps, photos, etc.

<u>NEGATIVES TO BE DONATED</u> - GENE HULL will be donating his 2000 or so negatives taken in the 50s to early 60s around Little Rock, including some of the Urban Renewal scenes, to the Butler Center of the Central Arkansas Library System in January. These do NOT include his railroad negatives. There will be a reception in his honor, tentatively scheduled for January 20 around 5 p.m. (date and time subject to change). Arkansas Railroad Club members should receive invitations in January, and you'll need invitations to attend.

<u>RELATIVELY SHORT ISSUE</u> - As usual this time of year, events get in the way of putting this newsletter together, such as printing deadlines, time off, holiday parties, etc. This issue is going to press Monday, December 13 to have it ready before the end of the year. Any additional club news will be put in the February issue, unless extremely important. Coverage of the December 18 party will be in the February issue as well.

2000 DUES ARE DUE - If you haven't already paid (and many of you have paid), your 2000 dues are now due. All NRHS chapters collect dues on January 1. If you paid in the middle of the year, I put you as paid through December 2000. Then you should renew every year around the first of the year from now on. Look at your label for 2000DEC

to see if you're paid up. Thanks.

INSERTS AND SUCH - Again, I must point out that postal regulations have been getting stricter over the past few months, so when I insert a flyer in one envelope, I must put one in all other envelopes as well. So, even if you've paid for a calendar or paid your dues already, you will still be getting the same inserted flyer in some issues. PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL to see if you're paid up - if you have 2000DEC, you're paid up through 2000. If you have 99DEC, your dues are due. I've had two people pay their dues twice because they didn't check their labels - thanks for the additional contributions. Thanks.

<u>2000 OFFICERS</u> - The following are our new officers for 2000. They will be installed at the annual Christmas party. PRESIDENT: John Hodkin, Jr.; VICE-PRESIDENT - Jim Wakefield; SECRETARY: Sharon Doyal; TREASURER: Walter Walker; NRHS DIRECTOR: Jim Bennett (Gene Hull will do his annual report this year); NEWSLETTER: Ken Ziegenbein; NEW BOARD MEMBER: Ron Esserman; PHOTOGRAPHER: John Jones.

SHOW AND SALE for next year will be held June 3 at Fisher Armory in North Little Rock, where we had it in years past. For information, contact Walter Walker, 8423 Linda Ln, Little Rock AR 72227, 501-225-0826.

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER is January 9.

NOVEMBER 14, 1999 MINUTES - The Arkansas Railroad Club met Sunday, November 14, 1999 at 2:00 PM at the Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church with President Leonard Thalmueller presiding. Guests were introduced. Minutes were approved as presented. Treasurer report was accepted for audit.

Chairman, Robin Thomas, reported the Board of Directors has approved the slate of officers for 2000 as nominated:

President - John Hodkin Vice-president - Jim Wakefield

Secretary - Sharon Doyle Treasurer - Walter Walker

Board of Directors - Ron Esserman Photographer - John C. Jones

Editor - Ken Ziegenbein NRHS director - Jim Bennett

John Hodkin announced:

- the Holiday Gathering will be Saturday, December 18 at the Adult Leisure Center on $12^{\rm th}$ street.
- the honoree for the Arkansas Railroad Club Person of the Year Award has been selected and will be recognized at the Christmas party
- plans are being made for next year's Show and Sale
- want to promote increased membership for year 2000

No report from NRHS, however, Gene Hull said he is working on the Chapter's annual report to send to NRHS.

John Jones reported on various activities of the Union Pacific and that he and Nelda will be attending UP's Christmas Party. Also, that he had attended the dedication of the restored Depot at Marshall, TX the day before.

Other announcements:

- · The second Saturday of each month has been designated as work days for the 819.
- Dues for 2000 are payable now.
- Reservations are needed to attend the Christmas Dinner and the price is \$15.00 per person. We will gather at 5:30 with dinner being served at 6:00. John and Tami Hodkin will hold open house after dinner.
- · Craig Gerard will give a lecture on toy trains Tuesday, December 16, 1999 at the Layman

Library at 12:00.

- · Gene Hull has received a letter from someone in Ontario, Canada who visited Arkansas in 1957 and will be repeated the trip next. Inquired about track at Augusta
- · Ken announced the North Arkansas & Eureka Springs Railroad is for sale. Bob Dortch is retiring.
- · John Hodkin announced the Cumbers and Toltec Railroad is without an operator will not run next summer if one cannot be found.
- · Randy Tardy has received an announcement from the Museum of Discovery of 'All Aboard Akansas', a model train exhibit that will be displayed from November 20 to January 23.
- · Randy also showed the new stamps that are available at Post Offices depicting train engines.

Leonard thanked the club for the opportunity to serve as president for the past two years. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM. Following a short break, Jim Wakefield presented the program.

Carole Sue Schafer, Secretary

WANTED: FOR SALE OR TRADE

The following is for those who want to find certain railroad-related items, information, or want to sell or trade such items with other railfans. We reserve the right to refuse listings if deemed inappropriate. The Arkansas Railroad Club is not responsible for misleading ads.

FOR SALE - The Arkansas Railroad Club's reprint of Gene Hull's classic *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas*, over 400 pages, hardbound, foil stamped, limited run, 6"x9" book. You can order from White River Productions, Inc., 24632 Anchor Ave, Bucklin MO 64631 or call 877-787-2467. Cost is \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping (or you can

pick one up at a club meeting and save the postage).

FOR SALE - The Arkansas Railroad Club's hardbound, 120-page book called *Railroad Stations and Trains through Arkansas and the Southwest*. It was written by Clifton Hull with help from Tom Shook, among other club members. Kevin EuDaly of White River Productions did the graphic design and artwork. You can order from White River Productions, 24632 Anchor Ave, Bucklin MO 64631. Cost is \$29.95 plus \$4.50 postage and handling (total of \$34.45 if you're having it mailed). MasterCard or

Visa accepted. You can call White River Productions at 877-787-2467.

FOR SALE - James R. Fair's book *The Louisiana & Arkansas Railway*. This 176-page clothbound book has 80 black and white illustrations and covers the Louisiana & Arkansas Railway from its beginning to the modern era. You can now order directly from Mr. Fair. He'll even autograph it for you. Cost directly from him is only \$34. His address is: James R. Fair, 2804 Northwood Rd, Austin, TX 78703-1630. Call 512-451-6194 or 512-471-3689.

RAILROAD ABANDONMENT PROPOSALS

The address of the Surface Transportation Board is: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, Washington DC 20423. The STB phone number for abandonment procedures (Office of Public Services) is: 202-565-1592. If you contact them, it would be handy to use the Docket Numbers. Their Web address is: http://www.stb.dot.gov if you'd like the complete listings.

These abandonment proposals have been printed in the Federal Register or have come directly from the Surface Transportation Board. They will go in effect unless one of the following occurs: 1) an offer of financial assistance is received; 2) a request for public use of the land is received (for instance, rails-to-trails); 3) petitions to reopen the case is

filed. Railroads, before they can file these "notices of exemption under CFR 1152 Subpart F," must certify that 1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; 2) any overhead traffic can be routed over other lines; 3) no formal complaint filed by a user is pending and; 4) environmental reports, historic reports, transmittal letter, newspaper publication, and notice to governmental agencies have been met. Even though approval is granted for the railroads to abandon, it may be months or years before track is actually taken up.

ARIZONA - UNION PACIFIC - To abandon the South Drill Track extending from m.p. 982.78 to the end of the line at m.p. 984.70 near Tuscon, Arizona, a distance of 1.92 miles. Final decision by February 16, 2000. (STB Docket No. AB-33, Sub No. 141X, decided November 10, served November 18, 1999.

NORTH DAKOTA - RED RIVER VALLEY & WESTERN RAILROAD CO. - To abandon about 56.34 miles of line from m.p. 29.16 west of Bowdon to m.p. 85.5 at the end of the line west of Turtle Lake, North Dakota. Effective January 1, 2000. (STB Docket No. AB-391, Sub No. 7X, decided November 22, served December 2, 1999)

ARKANSAS RAIL NEWS

Maybe next month. Send in those articles and stories!

GENERAL RAIL NEWS

TARANTULA RR NOT RUNNING

(Fort Worth) - The Texas Star Clipper dinner train still had not started running as of mid November. They were supposed to start in late October. Coe Sun, the train's new owner, is still doing some major renovation of the cars. Also, the train is being stored in an old bomb factory, and they are behind in rent and may have to be evicted. They still plan to start before the end of 1999.

The world's first streetcar system opened in New York City with horse drawn cars on tracks on Fourth Avenue on November 14, 1832.

RAILFAN KILLED

(Winslow, Arizona) - A railfan was killed in mid-November in Winslow, Arizona while photographing a yard engine. The railfan was standing between the rails of one of the BNSF mainline tracks and was struck and killed while the crew of the yard engine and crew of the train on the main line watched. (Will this person show up in the "improving the gene pool list" next year?)

The longest and heaviest train (500 coal cars, 4 miles long, 42,000 tons) was pulled by Norfolk and Western Railroad between lager, West Virginia and Portsmouth, Ohio on November 15, 1957.

FINAL RULE ON STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced November 18 that a final inspection and maintenance standards rule for steam locomotives has been adopted. The final rule makes a number of significant changes in the areas of inspections, record keeping, maintenance schedules and responsibility for ensuring continuing compliance with rules and regulations. The new rules were developed in consultation with the Steam Standards Task Force of the Tourist and Historic Railroads Working Group, which includes representatives of the Association of Railway Museums, Association of American Railroads, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Tourist Railway Association, Smithsonian Institution, National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, and a number of steam railroads and industry associations. Details of the new rules were not available. They will become effective January 18, 2000.

THOMAS THE TANK ACCIDENT

(London) - A railway buff who killed himself under the wheels of a Thomas the Tank train packed with children on November 17, 1999, was being investigated on child pornography charges. The day before Brian Wakley was decapitated in the accident, his home was searched for recording devices. Wakley, 42, threw himself under the train as it carried 200 children from Corfe Castle to Swanage in Dorset, England. (London Daily Mirror, November 18, 1999)

TRAINS BECOMING SAFER

According to the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. railroads had an 11.2 percent increase in traffic in the past five years, yet had a 33 percent reduction in total accidents.

AMTRAK NEWS

RENOVATED DEPOT

(Marshall, Texas) - Marshall's historic passenger depot was dedicated after renovation on November 13 at 10:30 a.m. Amtrak officials and Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison attended. Marshall is served by the Texas Eagle. The depot will house an Amtrak ticket office staffed by the city, not Amtrak, and a Texas & Pacific museum.

\$10 BILLION BONDS

A bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate to give Amtrak authority to sell \$10 worth of bonds that would finance high speed rail corridors across the country. The bill is called "The High-Speed Rail Investment Act."

EXCURSIONS/SHOWS/EVENTS OF OTHER CLUBS

None this month. Send in any you know about.



The Kansas and Colorado Pacific Railway Company

Color on accompanying man - Orange, Nov. 47, 48, 49 and 50x

The company was organized by outside capital but the line was built by The Missouri Pacific Railway and operated by that company by virtue of ownership of a majority of the capital stock.

This company was consolidated with others forming The K.& C.P. Ry. Co., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.

6. The Council Grove, Smoky Valley and Western Railway Company:

Termini: From H.B. connection with Salina Branch 908 feet west of center of depot at Gypsum City to a point 1,260 feet west of center of depot at Marquette (Connection with Salina Branch).

Color on accompanying map - Oronge No. 42.

The line was built by The Missouri Pacific Railway Company and operated by that company by virtue of stock ownership.

This company was consolidated with others forming The K. & C.P. Ry. Co., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.

7. Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota Railway Company:

Termini: From east line of Kansas Avenue, Topeka, to end of track on north line of Wall Street, Fort Scott.

The Kansas and Colorado Pacific Railway Company

This company was organized and construction started by outside capital, but the line was practically all built by The Missouri Pacific Railway Company and operated by that company by virtue of ownership of a majority of the capital stock.

The company was consolidated with others forming The K. & C.P. Ry., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.

8. Salina, Sterling and El Paso Railroad Company:

Termini: From H.B. connection with main line at East Junction, Geneseo, to a point 10 feet east of west line of Adams Street at Hutchinson (joining the rails of The W.& C. Ry.Co. - See below).

Color on accompanying man - Violet, No. 64.

The line was built by The Missouri Pacific Railway Company and operated by that company by virtue of stock ownership.

The company was consolidated with others forming The K. & C.P. Ry. Co., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.

9. The Wichita and Colorado Railway Company:

This company was incorporated under the general railroad laws of Kansas by articles of association filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Kansas, July 27, 1885, and an amendment filed April 29, 1886. It constructed the line of road from Wichita to Hutchinson, Kansas, the various sections of which were completed as follows:

	Date		
From	To.	Completed	Miles
Wichita	Andale	2-15-86	18.26
Andale	Mount Hope	4-12-86	5.75
Mount Hope	Haven	6-30-86	6.96
Haven	Elmer	8_22_86	9.07
Elmer	Hutchinson	10- 3-86	6.43
Total			46.47

Termini: From H.B. at W. & C. Junction 0.90 mile south of center of depot at Wichita to a point 10 feet east of west line of Adams Street in Hutchinson (joining the rails of the S.S. & E.P. R.R. Co.).

lor on accompanying map - Green, No. 65:

The Kansas and Colorado Pacific Railway Company

The line was built by The Hissouri Pacific Railway Company and operated by that company by virtue of stock ownership.

The company was consolidated with others forming The K. & C.P. Ry. Co., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.

10. The Verdigris Valley, Independence and Western Railroad Company:

This company was incorporated under the general railroad laws of Kansas by articles of association filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Kansas, May 6, 1885. It constructed the line of road from LeRoy to Winton, completed August 31, 1886, 74.93 miles, and later extended the line 5.7 miles to Deering, completed May 2, 1888, making a total mileage of 80.63. The Missouri Pacific Railway Company, in 1910, took up 4.57 miles of this line near Yates Center, leaving the present length of the line 76.06 miles (Box XIV., page 51).

Termini: From H.B. connection V.V.I. & W. Junct. at LeRoy to end of North Junction Spur at Yates Center, 11.60 miles, and from end of track Yates Center Branch to H.B. connection with main line at Deering Jct., 64.46 miles.

Color on accompanying map - Carmine: Non. 70 and 71.

The railroad and property of the company were leased to The Missouri Pacific Railway Company on September 27, 1886, for a term of forty years.

The company was consolidated with others forming The K. & C.P. Ry. Co., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.

11. The Grouse Creek Railway Company:

Termini: From H.B. connection with main line at Dexter Junction to end of track at Arkansas City. (The line was remeasured in 1912 and found to be 24.97 miles Trace 51).

The line was built by The Missouri Pacific Railway Company and operated

The line was built by The Missouri Pacific Railway Company and operated by that company by virtue of stock ownership.

This company was consolidated with others forming The K. & C.P. Ry. Co., December 27, 1890, and January 10, 1891.



This crossing watchman's shanty sat at the southeast side of the intersection of East 4th Street and Missouri Pacific "Valley" Division main line at North Little Rock, Arkansas. Looking east. (*Photo July 1967 by Gene Hull*)

THE WHITTLING CONDUCTOR

by: Gene Hull

In North Little Rock, where East Fourth Street crosses the railroad tracks, a small shanty about the same size as a "country restroom" sat at the southeast side of the intersection. This was almost in the center of the original town of Argenta. This spot was where the north-south main line of the Little Rock & Ft. Smith railroad crossed the Memphis & Little Rock heading west to intersect the Cairo & Fulton near the north end of the Baring Cross Bridge.

The little structure was a railroad crossing watchman's shanty or shelter. At this crossing at the time of our story there were a couple of yard tracks and the main line of the "Valley" Division,

Arkansas Railroader

which crossed the Arkansas river on the Junction Bridge.

Up until 1962, Billy J. Schall, 20B Goshen Street, North Little Rock, was a conductor-brakeman. At that time, he was stricken with Parkinson's Disease (never degeneration). To accommodate Billy, the Missouri Pacific assigned him to protect the public during the infrequent passage of freight trains and switch engines.

During his abundant spare time, Billy occupied a cane-bottom chair either in his shanty, or outside, depending upon the weather. To keep his hands and mind active his pocket knife created large piles of tiny wood chips and shavings.

After the chips and shavings were removed, what remained would be a small pistol, windmill, a religious cross or a Maltese cross. These accumulated during the year and were given to children as presents at Christmas. Billy said the Christian cross was the most popular item he made. He was afraid to paint the toys because he knew some of the paints at that time contained lead and a child could be poisoned by chewing one of the toys.

Just before Christmas, friends and some merchants gave him pecans, which he shelled and sold. With this money he bought candy and fruit for the kids. The candy was sold at discount by Weingarten grocers, and Crank and Osco drug stores. He said Crank's would not sell the candy at discount, but would give him 1.25 pounds and charge for only a pound. Roy Barker, a North Little Rock produce dealer, would sell him 100 apples at Roy's cost.

Billy said he and his wife had no children and he did these things for the kids in the neighborhood around his Fourth Street "office."

This was an added human interest to the railroads of North Little Rock. Billy's little crossing shanty has been gone many years, but Billy still lives at the same address.

