



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
N.R.H.S.

ARKANSAS RAILROADER



VOLUME 26 NUMBER 6 JUNE 1995



LITCHFIELD & MADISON #159 pulling only a caboose through Glen Carbon, Illinois in December 1950. Notice the engineer being handed his orders. *(Harold K. Vollrath collection)*

NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM

The next meeting of the Arkansas Railroad Club will be held on SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1995 at our usual location, the Twin City Bank in North Little Rock on Main Street. The program will be given by JONATHAN ROYCE. He will give a show on Greece Railways. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

Future programs include: July - Robin Thomas will have a report on the annual NRHS convention in Lancaster. August - Bill Bailey will have a slide show.

3985 STEAM TRIP REPORT - We BROKE EVEN on the trip in early May, thanks to a surge in ticket sales after the statewide newspaper ads the weekend of April 30. Domes are SOLD OUT and have been since May 9. Sales are still brisk for coach seats, as of May 12. Thanks for all your support.

Since Union Pacific's sponsors backed out of the Monroe-Shreveport leg, U.P.'s Manager - Train Operating Practices, Steve Lee, asked us to collect money for tickets on that segments WITHOUT ANY FINANCIAL OBLIGATION on our part. Union Pacific will then open the train to the public without an official sponsor. The steam train committee agreed. We will collect the money, put it in a separate checking account (an escrow account), and pay Union Pacific when they ask us to after the trips. Any incidental expenditures will be made by committee members, and not by the Arkansas Railroad Club (like advertising in Monroe, printing tickets, etc). If we (Ken Ziegenbein and John Hodkin) get reimbursed for these small expenses by U.P., fine).

If you'd like to ride on one of our trips, send in your SEPARATE checks made out to the Arkansas Railroad Club. Costs LITTLE ROCK-MONROE: \$110 coach, \$20 return bus; MONROE-SHREVEPORT: \$90 coach, \$135 dome. The Monroe-Shreveport segment will be a NO-FRILLS trip - you'll need to bring your sack lunches and no bus transportation will be provided. You're on your own. Steve Lee deserves thanks for opening this sponsor less segment.

At press time (May 13), there was also the possibility that we'd collect fares for the unsponsored Palestine-Houston leg, but we were awaiting word from Lee on this. A number of us plan to ride the entire trip from Little Rock to Houston.

THANKS, RANDY TARDY - We wish to thank Randy Tardy, business writer for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and club member for helping us get publicity for the steam trip in the newspaper.

1996 CALENDAR - We will once again have a calendar next year. Photos are now being accepted of any railroad-related subject, as long as it's in Arkansas. Any time frame will do, any type of train. Our 1995 calendar sold out in early November last year - these have proven very popular. The prints (don't send negatives or slides - have a print made first) can be any size, black and white preferred, but color also O.K. Send them to our address. Deadline will be July 15. I only have three prints so far.



BILL CHURCH RECEIVES MEDAL

- Longtime member Bill Church received a medal from the Russian government May 9 at the VA Medical Center, North Little Rock, in recognition of courage and contribution to Allied support of Russia during World War II. Bill, who was with the Army's 711th Railroad Engineers, helped ship war supplies to the Soviet Union by way of the Barents Sea, Persian Gulf, Black Sea and Sea of Okhotsk. His wife, Polly, looked on.

BOOK REVIEW - *Missouri Pacific Diesel Power* by Kevin EuDaly is an excellent book about the Missouri Pacific's diesel motive power over the years. Especially interesting are the many first generation shots and there are several shots taken in Arkansas (one of which is by Arkansas Railroad Club member Robin Thomas). If you're from the generation that grew up with early diesels and are interested in the MoPac, this is the book for you. (*Ken Ziegenbein from the book donated to the Arkansas Railroad Club*).

MIKE ADAMS RESPONDS in reference to the picture on the back cover of the *May Railroader*. He says this photo was taken around 1906. He could make out a number in the 2501 series on the first locomotive of the group of three in the left center of the photograph. These were 4-6-0's originally IM&S 574 to 588 and Mo Pac 765 to 774 built in 1898 and re-numbered in December 1905. This, if correct, will put the picture at least into 1906.

The middle locomotive of this group is a 4-4-2 of the 5501 series. But, they were built in 1904 as IM&S 1695 - 99 and Mo Pac 1190- 99. They were made the 5501 - 5515 in the great re-numbering of December 1905. These locomotives when built had a very small tender which is very obvious in the picture. In 1907 another 25 of the 5500's were built with a larger tender.

The small 4-6-0 in the left foreground is a 2701 series built in 1889 - 90. It has no main rod up so has probably been brought in for shopping. None of the wood seen was for locomotive fuel. This went out in the early 1880's at the latest.

I can make out several more classes of locomotives that are very interesting and all built before 1906. Incidentally, a much larger roundhouse was built behind this one in 1912 - where the trees are.

Mike also said (referring now to the front cover photo of the same issue) that in July 1940 he rode this Rock Island train from East Des Moines, Iowa to Kansas City. Three days later he rode it back, his first adventure with light-weight, streamlined trains (riding, that is). He

used to see Union Pacific's train that operated from Kansas City to Salina, Kansas in 1937 while at Fort Riley, Kansas. (*Thanks, Mike. It's been a long time since you've written a short story for the Railroader. Want to do so again?*)

HELP PROTECT THE J611 - The Virginia Museum of Transportation needs to raise \$810,000 to build a cover for the J611 steam engine, which is being returned to this museum by NS. If you'd like to help, their address is 303 Norfolk Ave, Roanoke VA 24016.

WANTED/FOR SALE-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. Only personal inquiries, NO COMMERCIAL BUSINESS, please. We reserve the right to refuse listings if deemed inappropriate. The Arkansas Railroad Club is not responsible for misleading ads.

WANTED - Information on the closing of the East Little Rock tower, located at the end of RI's Arkansas River bridge. The tower was automated in late 1962-early 1963, but a more exact closing/dismantling date is needed. Also needed are RI time books (engineer or conductor) for pre-1963 passenger service, to provide data on locomotive assignments and consists. Time books will be photocopied and original returned to owner. - BILL POLLARD, 3005 Baxter, Conway AR 72032.

ARKANSAS RAIL NEWS

ANOTHER TRAIN IN HOT SPRINGS? - (Hot Springs) - Apparently, Arkansas Midland Railroad has agreed to let an excursion train run on its tracks again, which the city is trying to start. As part of a recent election, \$34 million has been allotted to Hot Spring's Civic Center expansion, which would include an excursion train out of the old Missouri Pacific Sawmill depot. (*Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, April 12*)

FORDYCE&PRINCETON TRAINS ran again this year at the annual Fordyce-On-The-Cotton Belt festival in Fordyce on April 23. The trains carried passengers on a 10-mile round trip over former Rock Island tracks. (*Fordyce News-Advocate, April 19, 1995*)



CROSSING MISHAPS - Operation Lifesaver can never have enough presentations and train rides. Here are some of the railroad crossing accidents around Arkansas during the past two months: ✖ 1) Two tractor-trailer rigs were destroyed in a 1:16 a.m. collision with a KCS train on Highway 41 south of Horatio on April 4. The first truck didn't see the train over the road, tried to stop but hit it anyway. Then the second truck rear-ended the first. No one was seriously injured. ✖ 2) On March 28 at 7:15 p.m., two minors were injured when a 14-year old driver without a license was struck by a KCS train in Ashdown. He was sited for no drivers license and his stepmother was cited for allowing him to drive.

✖ 3) Two teenagers were killed late in the night of April 13 when they tried to beat a

Santa Fe (warbonnet) freight (running over BN) over the Hasbrook Road crossing near Jonesboro. The engineer said he saw them racing the train along the parallel road, then they tried to turn left in front of the train to beat it over the crossing. The train drug the 1991 Nissan Maxima over 3,000 feet!. The girl and boy were both 18. ✖ 4) On April 11 at 12:30 p.m., two people in their 20s were killed when they failed to yield to a Union Pacific freight at a dirt crossing 4 miles east of Wynne. ✖ 5) On April 9 two men in their 40s were killed when their 1992 Ford pickup failed to yield to a Union Pacific freight at the Highway 42 crossing in Cherry Valley, near Wynne.

✖ 6) On April 6 at 1:15 p.m., a Freightliner struck a northbound Arkansas Midland freight on the Highway 49 crossing near West Helena. The truck had just passed a car stopped for the train and failed to see the train until it was too late. No serious injury occurred. ✖ 7) A 76-year old man was killed March 31 at 10:35 a.m. when his pickup was hit by a Burlington Northern train on a road crossing in Clarkedale. He was an alderman of that town who had talked about installing crossing gates at that crossing.

In 1963, there were 14,240 rail passenger cars in the U.S. In 1992, Amtrak had 1,962.

NEW RAILCAR PLANT - (Paragould) - American Railcar, Inc. (formerly ACF Railcar Manufacturing) held an open call April 1 to fill 150 vacancies in this railcar plant. The plant (to be open in July, 1995) will build covered hoppers. They expected 1,000 to apply for the mostly welding jobs. (*Paragould Daily Press, March 30*)

NEW INTERMODAL FACILITY - (Marion) - Santa Fe Railway, running over the Burlington Northern, has built an intermodal facility in Marion to ease the strain of the nearby Memphis facilities. This facility will be 26 acres and employ 50 to 75 new people. (*West Memphis Evening News, March 31*)

DEPOT RELOCATION - (Glenwood) - The Glenwood School Board discussed relocating the old Missouri Pacific depot at the end of the line in Glenwood to a site next to the school gym and also next to the tracks. They play to put this structure on the National Register of Historic Places. (*Glenwood Herald, March 16*)

CARS DERAIL BY THEMSELVES - (Decatur) - Apparently tired of just sitting on a siding, 13 KCS freight cars decided on their own to run away and jump the tracks just after midnight, Sunday March 26, near Decatur. The 13 cars had been on a siding at the Peterson Farms Feed mill, had broken loose and hit two other cars next to the KCS main line. KCS was notified and stopped a southbound train. The main track was also damaged in the incident. (*Benton County Daily Record, March 28*)

AMTRAK NEWS

LETTERS TO SAVE AMTRAK - Rather surprisingly, a March 23 letter to the chairman of the House and Senate Budget committees from 41 Senators and 81 Representatives and a letter to Senator Dole and Rep. Gingrich signed by 22 governors were very supportive of keeping Amtrak alive. (*NARP Newsletter, April 1995*)

DOES ARKANSAS CARE? - During the Amtrak Task Force hearing in Dallas April 27, Amtrak President Thomas Downs cited the State of Arkansas as an example of a state where state agencies generally ignore Amtrak. He specifically mentioned the absence of Amtrak route designations on the official Arkansas Highway Map and the failure of Parks and Tourism to mention Amtrak in any of their brochures. Maybe we could write them requesting this? Many other states do it. (*Bill Pollard*)

EXCURSIONS/SHOWS/EVENTS OF OTHER CLUBS

☞ ...note...these are listed sequentially by dates, earliest dates being first...

SPONSORS OF U.P. 3985 TRIPS: 1) Arkansas Railroad Club, PO Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119, 501-945-2128, June 6, 1995, Little Rock to Monroe, Louisiana; June 7, 1995, Monroe to Shreveport, Louisiana. 2) Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society, 509 Marshall St, Suite 1019, Shreveport, LA 71101, June 8, 1995, Shreveport to Palestine, Texas. 3) Gulf Coast Chapter NRHS, PO Box 457, Houston, TX 77001-0457, June 10, Houston to College Station, Texas and return; June 11, Houston to Bay City and return. The train runs empty Houston to Omaha - could not find a single sponsor on that segment. 4) Pacific Limited Group, PO Box 27081, Salt Lake City UT 84127-0082, 801-355-5871, various trips in the Pacific Northwest, Fall 1995.

JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS - May 31 - AP&L Senior's Day at the Jacksonville Elderly Activities Center, 100 Victory Circle - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS-BRANSON, MISSOURI - Began April 19, 1995 - *The Branson Limited* began its American Orient Express runs again from San Antonio through Arkansas to Branson. The train will be attached to Amtrak's *Texas Eagle* in both directions from Texas, then go on its own from Little Rock to Branson (according to John C. Jones). Five-day packages, including shows at Branson and hotels, start at \$1,225 per person. Trains leave San Antonio Wednesday mornings, arriving Branson Thursday mornings, returning from Branson on Saturdays. Call 1-800-AOE-0389 or write American Orient Express, PO Box 460707, San Antonio TX 78246-0707 for more information.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - August 5, 1995 - *The Egyptian Special* public excursions using Union Pacific's E units and streamlined cars - runs through Southern Illinois through what is known as Egypt - trips leave St. Louis 8:00 a.m. going through Chester, Illinois, Mt. Vernon, Benton and Gortham - prices start at \$65 coach up to \$130 coach for whole trip - Contact St. Louis Chapter NRHS, 11221 Manchester Rd, Suite 321, St. Louis MO 63122.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS - August 5, 1995 - 16th Annual Meeting and Railroadiana Show of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society, Holiday Inn East, Springfield IL, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Admission is \$1.00/person or \$2.00/family. Dealer tables are \$20. - Contact Mark L. Miller, 1204A West Central, Marion IL 62959-1022 or call 618-997-5788 evenings.

LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI - September 23, 1995 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Fifth annual Heart of America Kansas City Railroadiana Show at John Knox Pavilion, 520 Murray Rd - tables are \$22 until September 12, admission is \$2.00 - 175 dealer tables expected - call 816-373-9364 for information.

ROCK ISLAND GROUP meets about twice a year. Contact David Crotts, 8828 S Graphic Dr, Alma AR 72921. Another group, the Rock Island retired group also meets, about once monthly, at various locations. Contact L. T. Walker, 3520 Lakeview Rd, North Little Rock AR 72116 for information on this organization.

SPRINGDALE, VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS - Ozark train rides - Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays - The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad specials leave Springdale, Arkansas 7:45 a.m., leaves Van Buren 11:00 a.m. Call 501-751-8600 or 800-687-8600 for information.

NOTE - This newsletter is a little skimpy since I'm heavily involved in selling/sending out/advertising our Challenger trip. Rest assured, however, that I have MANY stories yet to run by Gene Hull, Bill Church, P. B. Wooldridge, etc. Here's a short one by Mr. Wooldridge. ~~****~~

MURPHY'S LAW

by: P.B. Wooldridge

It could have happened, and it really did.

During World War II, about 1943, the railroad was unable to find telegraph operators, so they trained young women to handle train orders.

One night at Waldo, the dispatcher asked the young lady to "Copy 9 South" for First and Second 17. She made only 5 copies of the train order, delivered it to First 17, and filed the station copy. Second 17 came along, and she cleared her Board, and the train roared thru.

Second 17 and an Extra North, both pulled by 800s, saw each other's reflections in the night and managed to stop just short of each other. However, one head brakeman jumped and broke a leg.

It could have happened, and it did. How lucky can one be!

But back about 1944, a tragic accident occurred which involved nothing but bad luck.

A switch engine, idle for the night, developed a leaky throttle and "walked away" from its mooring. The Hostler, running for his life, was out-distanced. The engine ran thru the switch at North Camden onto the main track, and sped north toward Kent, Arkansas, gaining momentum with every turn of the wheels.

The frantic Hostler rushed to the nearest phone to report the run-away engine. The dispatcher immediately rang Bearden, 16 miles north, but the operator there was already reporting an Extra 800 South by Bearden. With no open intermediate station, and no radio communication, the southbound freight could not be warned and stopped. Absolutely nothing could be done, but wait, as the engine and freight sped thru the night, on a collision course.

Just north of Kent there is a very long, sweeping 90 degree curve. Engineer Hugon was planning to make North Camden and head in the siding for No. 2, the "Lone Star" passenger.

But on that long, sweeping curve, the runaway engine and the southbound freight collided at speed, killing the head-end crew.

Sadly, it could have happened, and it really did.

I was on third trick at Illmo, Missouri at the time and I thought of that railroad poem, which reads in part:

I strain my eyes around the curve,
For what awaits us there?

1995 OFFICERS OF THE ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB

PRESIDENT - Tom Shook , 1716 Alberta Dr, Little Rock AR 72207-3902 (501-225-8955)
VICE-PRESIDENT - John C. Jones, 117 Cottonwood, Sherwood AR 72116-4011 (501-835-3729)
TREASURER - Walter B. Walker, 8423 Linda Ln, Little Rock AR 72207-5983 (501-225-0826)
SECRETARY - Carole Sue Schafer, 103 Thayer St, Little Rock AR 72205-5951 (501-371-0034)
EDITOR - Ken Ziegenbein, 905 Valerie Dr, N Little Rock AR 72118-3160 (501-758-1340)
NATIONAL NRHS DIR -Robin Thomas, 10980 Rivercrest Dr #26, Little Rock AR 72212-1412 (501-225-1952)
HISTORIAN - R. W. McGuire, 114 Rice St, Little Rock AR 72205 (501-375-1738)
BOARD '95- Gene Hull, 3507 E Washington #31, North Little Rock AR 72114-6455 (501-945-7386)
BOARD '96 - Peter Smykla, 2800 West 37th, Pine Bluff AR 71603 (501-535-4724)
BOARD '97 - Tom Shircliff, 129 Jessica Dr, Sherwood AR 72120-3429 (501-834-4914)
BOARD '98 - John Hodkin, Jr., 506 Gordon St, N Little Rock AR 72117 (501-945-2128)
BOARD '99 - Stanley Wozencraft, PO Box 1938. Little Rock AR 72203-1938 (501-664-3301)

The Arkansas Railroad Club is a non-profit organization that meets on the second Sunday of the month. This month we will meet on Sunday, June 11 at the Twin City Bank Building on Main Street in North Little Rock. We are a chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Programs are presented.

The **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** is the monthly publication of the Arkansas Railroad Club and is generally mailed in time to be received before the monthly meetings. In order to receive this publication, you must be a member of the Club. Current dues are \$20/year for Arkansas residents and also \$20/year for out-of-state. The **RAILROADER** is mailed to all members automatically.

If you would like to join, send your check made out to the "Arkansas Railroad Club" to: ATTN:Treasurer, ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB, P.O. Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119. You may also join the National Railway Historical Society through our Club by paying \$14/year more, or \$34/year.

Editor of the **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** is Ken Ziegenbein. Everything having to do with the **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** should be sent to the address below, ATTN:Editor. Please let me know if your address changes, as **NEWSLETTERS CANNOT BE FORWARDED**.

Arkansas Railroad Club mail should also be sent to the address below.



ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB
P. O. BOX 9151
NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72119

Newsletter and FAX phone: (501)-758-1340
(Leave message on recorder if I'm not there)

JOIN THE ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB

Dues are \$20/year per individual. Dues are always due JANUARY 1ST of each year and apply to the calendar year. You may also join the National Historical Railway Society through our club by paying \$14/year more (total payment for both club membership and NRHS membership would be \$34 per year).

Membership entitles you to receive the **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** for the term of your membership. It is published monthly. Send the coupon below to our address in the center of this page.

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER CHANGE OF ADDRESS

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (____) _____