

ARKANSAS RAILROADER
ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER
VOL. 5 NO. 8 AUGUST 1974

AUGUST MEETING: There will be no regular business meeting for the month of August. An informal get together will be held at the regular time, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 11th at the Missouri Pacific Building 1000 West 4th St. North Little Rock. Bring slides, film or what have you.

BUILDING PROGRAM: The plumbing has been roughed in and the floor slab poured and finished out for the new building. The steel components have been transported to the building site and the insulation material has been obtained. Things are beginning to take shape.

SOUTHERN STEAM AT MEMPHIS: At long last the famed 4501 will come to our area. On September 14 & 15 there will be a roundtrip steam excursion from Memphis to Corinth, Mississippi.

Sponsored by Memphis Showcase Tennessee, the train will depart from Buntyn Station (Fair Grounds area) at 8:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. The fare will be \$18.00 and tickets may be obtained from the sponsoring agent at P. O. Box 994, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

The consist of 15 cars will include two open cars and a tape recorder car as well as coaches, (both air conditioned and non-air conditioned) dining car and museum car.

N.R.H.S. BULLETIN: National Director Gene Hull has asked that the copy of a letter that he received from the ALABAMA GULF CHAPTER be published with this issue.

The Alabama chapter raises several questions with regard to the BULLETIN as well as with certain National operating practices. Please read the letter which is attached to this issue of the NEWSLETTER and it will be brought up for discussion at the September business meeting.

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NEW BOOKS: Kalmbach Publiseres has issued a new volume in their modeling handbook series. This one is on Traction Models and is priced at \$3.50. It is prepared in the usual well written style of the previous volumes. A copy is on file with the editor and is available for examination.

Northham Directory Assoc. has published the third edition of Locomotive Rosters of North America. Their address is P. O. Box 129, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901. This is printed as information for those who might be familiar with previous editions inasmbuc as a copy was not received for review.

AMTRAKING: Afreight derailment near Jefferspn, Texas a few weeks ago caused the INTER_AMERICAN to back into Texarkana and come into Ft.Worth on T&P's old Trans-Continental Division via Paris. A crew had been called for running over the COTTON BELT to Big Sandy. But the plan was killed despite Federal regulations dealing with emergencies. (From the Bulletin Board of Trinity Valley Chapter)

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Dont forget the September Meeting will be a sell & swap meet. Gather up the photos and Railroadiana that you don't have any further use for and bring them down. Swap them or sell them or sell them and buy something else.

WANTED: Railroad cap badges. Conductor, Agent, Etc. Walter Walker. Box 5584, Little Rock 72205

(Small classified announcements and ads will be run at no charge for members only on a space available basis)

NEWS: News from the membership is necessary to fill out a newsletter. As there is no reporting staff, the editor must rely on information furnished by members Please let him know anytime you have anything that may be of interest to the membership.

Arkansas Railroad Club is a non prorit corporation. It meets the second sunday of each month at the Missouri Pacific Office Building, 1000 West 4th Street North Little Rock, Ark. For further informaxion, write Editor, P. O. Box 5584 Little Rock, Ark. 72205

**THE ALABAMA GULF CHAPTER
OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. BOX 1571

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36601

July 18, 1974

Dear NRHS Chapter Officer:

Our Board of Directors and a majority of our members have requested that this letter be sent to one officer of each NRHS chapter in the southeast with the request that it be called to the attention of your membership.

The Alabama Gulf Chapter is not one of the larger chapters (71 members at this writing) nor one of the oldest (chartered November 1962) however we feel that the railfans in this area are just as dedicated as those in any other, and our members are quite concerned about the direction and leadership that we are receiving from the national organization of the NRHS.

The focus of our concern is the quality and content of *THE BULLETIN*. Not a one of our members is the least interested in foreign railroading, nor with boats. In our opinion, no recent issue has been published that any one of us would have paid 10¢ for if we had seen it on a newsstand. The only exception might be Vol. 39, No. 1 with the long article by Otto Kuhler. However, we found nothing in that article that was not in Mr. Kuhler's book, *MY IRON JOURNEY* that was published in 1967. We also dislike the fact that Chapter News appears very late, or not at all, and that President Pardee has flatly refused (in a personal conversation that took place in Mobile in December of 1972) to continue to publish a national directory with the membership broken down by state and city.

With membership of over 9,000 now, we request that you closely consider, the amount of money the national has to work with, the way that they refuse to give a detailed accounting of the way they use it, and what a small return each individual chapter gets back for the amount contributed in national dues.

Our Chapter has no pat answers to these problems, and we would appreciate knowing the views of your members. We do know for a fact that these problems, contents of *THE BULLETIN*, financial accounting, and the failure to publish a membership directory, have been called to the attention of the national officers many times in the past. A check of your latest edition of *THE BULLETIN* will show you that all of the national officers live in the north east, with the exception of one who lives out of the country, and another who lives in Illinois. We in the south east are totally unrepresented, yet, we account for almost half of the total NRHS membership. The national organization is now receiving in excess of \$40,000 a year in dues, yet what are we receiving in return?

The Alabama Gulf Chapter is considering several things and would appreciate your comments. One is to pay the national dues for only enough of our members (6) to retain our charter. Another would be to separate completely from the NRHS and form some other railfan organization that would be more responsive to the wishes and desires of its membership.

We would appreciate hearing from each person who receives this letter, after he has brought the contents to the attention of his membership.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Phillips, Sr.
Frank C. Phillips, Sr., President

Dan Moss
Dan Moss, Director