



Arkansas Railroader



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME ELEVEN
NUMBER EIGHT

AUGUST 1980

W. A. "BILL" MERCK EDITOR

AUGUST MEETING: Our meeting for August will be held on Sunday the 10th starting at 2 PM at the Missouri Pacific office building in North Little Rock. Meeting will be designated KCS/L&A Day and the highlight will be showing of a color sound movie on the SOUTHERN BELLE, one of the finest passenger trains ever to grace the rails of our fair state. If you have any items from these two lines bring them along for display. Certainly no line in the state ever had a president that was as well liked or as colorful as the late Harvey Couch and no other line in the state ever used a mallet locomotive like the big 750 class of the KCS. The system certainly deserves plenty of recognition. After the program if you have any questions about the KCS just ask Bill Bailey who is an authority on the KCS. As you may or may not know Bill hails from Stillwell, Oklahoma which is a local point on the KCS.

The Rock Island auction held at the old Biddle Yard in Little Rock on July 12th was a huge success. A large crowd turned out and up for bid were items like typewriters, adding machines, filing cabinets, desks, chairs and a variety of shop tools and station signs. Also up for bid were two former Rock Island Chicago commuter cars and a stainless steel RFO car.

Looks now like it will be sometime in September before the US District Court in New Orleans rules on the BN/FRISCO merger. Lets hope this does not drag out like the old Rock Island-UP-SP merger that really never got off the ground and was probably the main cause of so much deferred maintenance by the Rock Island which caused its demise.

The Chicago & Northwestern and Union Pacific have won a four year mail contract for trailer loads between Chicago and Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle. They expect to haul 36,000 trailers this year for a gross income of \$10 million.
Credit: Bulletin Board, Trinity Valley R.R. Club, Inc., Ft. Worth, Texas.

Mexico has negotiated a huge contract with GE which could mean total orders of 1000 locomotives, including electric locomotives for use when NdeM electrifies its lines. The ten year deal is worth about \$700 million with between 60-100 component sets per annum to be assembled, painted, and tested in the Aguascalientes shops of NdeM.
Credit: NRHS NEWS EXTRA-JULY,1980.

NEW TRAIN: Back on April 24th the SP inaugurated a new perishable train, the GOLDEN WEST EXPRESS, which train follows the old SP-ROCK ISLAND GOLDEN STATE ROUTE across New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas to Kansas City. The BN takes it from there to Chicago, where the traffic is turned over to connecting lines for delivery to points in the eastern U.S. and Canada. Credit: SOUTHERN PACIFIC BULLETIN, JUNE, 1980. S.P. credits the success of establishing this new train to the deregulation of perishables which began on May 28, 1979. The deregulation of some other commodities might also help the rails gain some additional traffic from the truck lines.

AMTRAK CHANGES: On August 3rd Amtrak's No. 21, the Inter-American will begin departing Little Rock at 5:46 AM daily, arriving Dallas about 1:30 PM. North-bound Train No. 22 will depart Little Rock at 12:52 AM instead of the current 12:32 AM departure. No. 22 will continue to arrive St. Louis at 8 AM and at Chicago at 2 PM same day. Effective Aug. 3 No. 21 will depart Chicago at 5:20 PM and leave St. Louis at 11:20 PM instead of 4:50 PM. In June the Inter-American handled about 3200 passengers arriving or departing from Little Rock as against 2600 passengers handled in June of 1979. It seems the big increase is in long distance tickets. It is your editor's opinion that what Amtrak needs more than anything else on the Inter-American is full dining car service and the use of refurbished coaches which were inherited from the railroads. Amfleet equipment is totally unsuited for a long distance train like the Inter-American, this equipment better serving its purpose in corridor service. Many complaints are still registered on the food service on this train. Will comment no further on it since I have never eaten a meal on it. The complaints it seems seem to over-ride any compliments of it.

Rumors persist on the railroad scene. One is (unconfirmed) that the Cotton Belt has purchased that part of Ex-Rock Island from Brinkley to Memphis. This may be true since Cotton Belt has been operating over that part for as way back as the early part of this century and have spent several million dollars in maintenance of the line in the last several years. Also, an unconfirmed report is that part of ex-Rock Island between Hazen and Brinkley is grown up so tall in weeds that you cannot even see the rails. Also unconfirmed is that the State of Arkansas is interested in purchasing Ex-Rock Island between Memphis and the Oklahoma line. If this happens it will be the surprise of the century; the state had a chance to purchase the Ex-READER R.R. and didn't. They surely let a prize go by the boards when they did not get this one. Sadly but true, many states think more of their railroads than does Arkansas. (Editor's opinion, you may not agree)

You have seen I am sure the ad in the August issue of TRAINS about our forthcoming Railroadiana Sale-Swap-Display Show at the Holiday Inn in North Little Rock on Saturday, September 27th. Flyers have been printed and are going out to what we think are interested parties and we trust that the turnout will be good, especially from the dealers. If this show is a success futures are sure to follow. Talk it up all possible and get the information into the hands of as many of your friends as possible, especially those who have any interest in the railroads whatever. We need a big crowd all day to make it a success.

We hear nothing but praise for the way the National Museum of Transportation in St. Louis (formerly known as National Museum of Transport) has been remodeled, enlarged space for rolling stock, new eating facilities and gift shop, etc. If you happen to be in St. Louis am sure you will want to make the museum part of your visit. Yes, Ex-UP BIG BOY is still there along with many other locos.

Your editor has received many compliments on the dining car recipes published in an edition of The Railroader a few months back; so, have decided to run two or three more, although this time they are taken from a little recipe book distributed by the Cotton Belt Dining Car Department back in the twenties and early thirties. The little book is shaped like the Cotton Belt gin saw logo, a little prize and today a collector's item. These recipes are shown on Page 3 of the newsletter.

THE ARKANSAS R.R. CLUB IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD (WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS) ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING VISITORS WHO ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. REFRESHMENTS USUALLY AVAILABLE. SEND ALL NEWS ITEMS AND EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS TO EDITOR AT 5007 HAWTHORNE RD. LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 72207.

See all of you at the August Meeting. Don't forget those KCS/L&A Items.

If you are interested in a possible trip to St. Louis in August on Bill Pollard's Private Pullman Car No. 211, see either Bill or Dick Byrd for details.

RICE PUDDING WITH RAISINS

1 pint raisins ----- 2½ cups rice
3/4 pint milk ----- 4 apples, peeled and cooked soft
1/3 cup sugar and 4 eggs

Boil rice and milk together, beat apples to sauce and sugar for ten minutes, then set aside to cool; then carefully mix in whites of eggs, whipped to stiff batter. Butter the mold, pour in the pudding, put in boiling hot water, filling one-half the pan. Steam twenty-five minutes.

COTTON BELT STEAK

Use only highest quality No. 1 beef tenderloin. Trim and take off all fat. Flatten slightly. Season with salt and pepper. Wrap a slice of bacon entirely around the outside of the steak. Broil to suit taste. When done baste with melted butter, place on a hot platter, garnish with shoestring potatoes, water cress or parsley, and dress with Spanish pimento.

SLICED GREEN APPLE PIE

4 medium sized green apples ----- 2 tablespoons melted butter
1 cup granulated sugar ----- 1/4 lemon juice

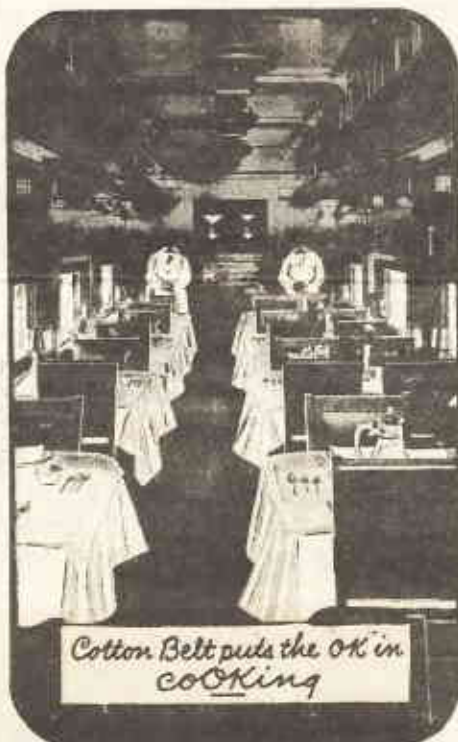
A dash of nutmeg if desired

Peel, slice and core apples. Line bottom of deep white enamel pie pan with pastry. Put sliced apples on this pastry, adding sugar, butter and Lemon juice. Cover with pastry and bake in medium hot oven for 30 minutes. Just before pie is done baste top crust with yolk of egg, then brown, serve cold.

The above recipes, among many, used by Cotton Belt chefs on regular dining and private cars on the line. Hope you like them and will want to try them.

SMILE BY THE MILE
OVER MEALS WORTHWHILE

COTTON BELT DINING CAR
SLOGAN



Cotton Belt puts the OK in COOKING

ANYTIME IS MEAL TIME
ON THE RAILROAD OF
COURTESY

COTTON BELT DINING CAR
SLOGAN

INTERIOR SCENE OF COTTON BELT DINING CAR - 1931