

DARDANELLE AND RUSSELVILLE

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Arkansas DELTA VALLEY & SOUTHERN Railroader



COTTON PLANT-FARGO RAILWAY

WARREN & SALINE RIVER

LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 1977

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We are not using the usual format in this month's newsletter. Our new officers for 1977 will be elected at our January meeting and on next month's newsletter we will again have our usual heading and will show our new officers.

Our January meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9th at the Missouri Pacific Office Building, 1000 West 4th Street in North Little Rock starting at 2:00 PM. Our good member, Ken Ziegenbein will present a program on passenger trains. We are looking forward to hearing Ken and trust we will have a good attendance to start the new year.

Just a few words about our Christmas party which was held at the home of your editor and wife on the night of December 11th. There were 30 people at the party which included your host and hostess. We thought it was just great that so many came and everyone seemed to have a good time. The highlight of the evening, of course, was the appearance of SANTA CLAUS in the person of none other than our good member E. A. Hille. Mrs. CLAUS was here too. Gobbies were passed out to everyone.

It is being proposed to raise our dues to \$7.50 for regular members and \$4.50 for associate members. This is in line with many other rail clubs, civic clubs, fraternal organizations, etc. Printing and postage costs seem to be skyrocketing all the time. Dues are now due and payable and you can remit to C.R. Byrd at 12 Flintwood Drive, Little Rock, 72207 or bring your dues to our next meeting.

Our club has been fortunate enough to acquire three glass display cases which will be placed in our museum for future display of antiques and artifacts.

We have received information from our friends with the MEMPHIS CHAPTER, NRHS, who publish THE MEMPHIS BUFF, that there will again be a steam excursion out of Memphis sometime around the first of May, 1977. No details as to schedule, destination, consist, etc. are available at this time. Thanks, MEMPHIS BUFF; this sounds like a winner and if it materializes you can bet there will be some good old Arkansas buffs to make the trip.

Congratulations to Bill and Nancy Bailey on the arrival on December 19th of Kimberly Ann Bailey who weighed in at 7 lbs. 2½ oz. Bill there are many good cigars on the market, Muriel, Rei Tan, El Trolles to name a few. How about it Bill?? Only kidding Bill. Have never seen anyone in our club smoking a cigar. There may be some though.

Again calling All Steam Fans. We learn from NRHS NEWS EXTRA, Oak Park, Illinois, of another super duper steam excursion, this time with No. 4449, The Freedom Train Queen. This trip will be operated by AMTRAK and will be one way between Miami, Florida and Birmingham, Alabama. Trip will leave Miami on Friday, January 14th and arrive Birmingham on Sunday, January 16th. There will be two overnight stops and train will operate over SC&W and L&N; also there will be several intermediate stops enroute. Consist expected to include the following:

- 4-8-4 Engine AFT 4449
- PNW 76 Tool-Dormitory car (PNW Chapter-NRHS car)
- 10-12 coaches (60-seat)
- 2-3 vista dome coaches
- 1 open-door baggage car
- 1 food service car (not a full diner)
- 1 lounge car

Maximum: 18 cars, conventional lightweight (no Amfleet cars)

Fares: \$30.00 per day---\$80.00 thru fare Miami-Bham.

No. 4449 will store at Birmingham until March or April, 1977 for continuance to Portland, Oregon via route and schedule to be determined.

Also from NRHS NEWS EXTRA the following pertaining to AMTRAK which include humorous titles for various aspects of Amtrak service.

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| AMSHAK-----Small depot on Amtrak route | AMBRH----Unheated Amcoach |
| AMSAC-----Travel bags sold at Amshaks | AMHOT----Amcoach with Air conditioning problem |
| AMSAX..... Sleeping Car | AMIGO----Friendly bar car |
| AMTREK-----Long journey via Amtrak | AMBUSH---Shubbery planted around Amshaks |
| AMYAK-----Amtrak business conference | AMCLAK---Sound of Amtrak trains on rails |
| AMHAK-----Travel brochure writer | AMCRASH--Service disruption |
| AMFLAK-----Public relations person | AM-OOPS---Small Amcrash |
| AMQUAK-----Company physician | AMESS----Result of Amcrash or Am-oops |
| AM-MACS-----Pre-cooked hamburgers sold in amcafes. | AMRUST---Non-stainless steel car |
| AMCRAX-----Jokes about Amtrak | AMMONSENSE---All of the above. |
| AMFACTS-----Timetables | |
| AMFIB-----Train in flooded area | |
| AMPLE-----Too many of these jokes | |
| AMRAG-----Amtrak News (the unkindest cut of all) | |

We all love AMTRAK and the above is only in Fun of course.

Some great railroad books added to my library for birthday and Christmas were the following: TRAINS--AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF LOCOMOTIVE DEVELOPMENT. TRAIN WRECKS (includes photo of ESW and MOPack Also a couple of Rock Island's RAILWAYS THEN AND NOW GREAT TRAINS OF THE WORLD DINNER IN THE DINER

All of these are on loan to anyone in our club who would like to read them. All of them are excellent, particularly the photos.

Our Membership Chairman, Bill Malley, is working hard to secure some new members for 1977 and we should all pitch in and help him. As they say, there is no way to go but up and we want to see our club grow; so lets everyone try hard to bring in at least one new member during this year. Remember, if a person has no interest in trains but to watch them he or she is a potential member. Just watching them proves they like trains.

W.C. "Dub" Braswell, relay repairman in the Cotton Belt's Signal Department at Pine Bluff, Ark. was recently elected sheriff of Jefferson County, Arkansas. Braswell will be in charge of law enforcement in the state's second largest county and will take a two-year leave from his Cotton Belt job in order to complete his term of office. (From Southern Pacific Bulletin) This only goes to prove that railroad men make good law enforcement officers.

If you yearn to ride some of the heavyweight equipment that once operated on U. S. railroads, make a trip to Mexico where it is still in abundance. Better hurry though because it may not last much longer. Included are sleepers with sections, dining rooms and compartments, heavyweight coaches and diners. Also understand there is still some steam in operation in that country.

Would like to remind all members that NRMS dues have now gone up to \$7.50 per year.

Whats it for this time. Looking forward to seeing ya all on January 9th. Lets start the new year with a bang and constantly keep the railroad image before the public.

Bill Merck Editor

The ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB is a non-profit organization that meets the second Sunday of each month in the Missouri Pacific Office Building, 1000 West 4th St. North Little Rock, Ark. Visitors always welcome. For information about the club address ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB, P. O. BOX 5584, LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 72215.