

ARKANSAS RAILROADER
ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER
VOL. 5 NO. 1 JANUARY, 1974

CHRISTMAS PARTY: The clubs Christmas party was held Saturday, December 15th at the Officers Club on the Pine Bluff Arsenal. We had a nice turnout and Secretary Holt is to be commended for his handling of the arrangements. Snacks & Punch were provided but some members managed to find their way to the bar at the other end of the club.

The Buster Keaton silent classic "The General" was shown along with appropriate silent comedies. This was a treat for all and especially for the visiting wives.

RELOCATIONS: Missouri Pacific General Offices have vacated the old Union Station and moved to their new quarters at 1000 West Fourth Street in North Little Rock. This move was accomplished the weekend of the 15th.

Cotton Belt and Southern Pacific relocated their Traffic Offices the previous day to the Cotton Belt Yards at North Little Rock. The Newly enlarged building formerly housing the yard offices now houses all departments.

RAILROADIANA: The club has had the good fortune of locating a limited supply of railroad glassware. Our first acquisition was several dozen glasses with the Rock Island emblem. These original (not reproduction) items were sold at \$1.50 each and the supply was immediately exhausted.

Other road names will be available, hopefully on a monthly basis, and will be available while supplies last at \$1.50 each. Mailing can be handled at an additional .50 per glass or \$1.50 per dozen for packaging and postage.

Ceramic ashtrays are now available in limited quantities at \$2.25 each. an additional .50 for postage and handling will be necessary for mail orders. This first offering is available with the Missouri Pacific emblem in the center. Other road emblems will be available in the future.

Patches with the Arkansas Railroad Club emblem on them are still available at .75 each.

Orders may be addressed to Custodian; P. O. Box 5584, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 and checks may be made to Arkansas Railroad Club.

The following editorial was borrowed from the December issue of the Bulletin Board, published by the Trinity Valley Railroad Club of Ft. Worth, Texas. It seems particularly pertinent at this time.

A WONDERFUL AND LOVELY CRISIS

Despite some initial inconveniences the fuel situation promises to return the nation to an existence of sanity and reasonable transport. If nothing else it will bring to an end the grip the giant automotive manufacturers have acquired on the nation's economy. A large percentage of every earned dollar goes their way in one form or another. The last quarter of a century has seen each model year bring forth a more grossly overpriced product which has declined steadily in quality and increased in the cost of operation and maintenance.

Mass layoffs by airlines along with big increases in fares foretells the end of the frantic and frivolous flitting there and yon. Such phrenetic travels are really not necessary or warranted with the exception of saving human life. Most transactions could be handled by telephone, and the remainder could be delayed long enough to permit surface transportation. The unimportance of it all is proven every time there is a nile of bloody flesh and metal. The flag goes up again the next morning, someone else moves to the vacant desk, and the Company has the next Christmas party and annual dividends.

Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Mellon, John D. Rockefeller, etc, built empires without their feet probably ever being 50 stories off the ground. The 20th Century Limited, The Broadway Limited, The Chief, the Flagler were quite sufficient in speed and their accommodations were equal to the demands of uncompromising tastes of palate, comfort and service.

Over 95% of the population has financed billions of dollars for airfields and services utilized by less than 5% of the travelers. Hundreds of thousands of fertile acres have been paved over for runways and super highways which can never grow a grain of wheat, a pea or a potato.

The government should take immediate, drastic and radical steps to conserve our oil resources and utilize abundant fuels. All railroad motive power should be converted to coal burning steam locomotives or to electric operations depending on the most feasible for the location. Low cost financing and generous tax benefits should be made available for the purchase of such units, for construction of servicing facilities, power stations and transmission lines. All inter-city motor transport should be phased out during the period allowed for the change over. Movement by rail is for three to five times more efficient per fuel unit than by any other method. AMTRACK business is already up 25%.

Save your folding drinking cuns. The passenger train is coming back.

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I.C.C. PASSENGER SERVICE RULES: After 86 years of silence on the subject of Passenger Service Rules, the Interstate Commerce Commission has finally acted in this field.

Among the rules promulgated are provisions for passengers to be provided with free food and lodging when trains are late enough to miss connections, a 24hour a day reservation service, and , except in emergencies, forbids railroads to put passenger trains on sidings to await passing freights.

It is our editorial opinion that if these rules had been written 25years sooner, we would still have a working transportation system.

DUES**DUES**DUES** Dues for 1974 are now payable to the treasurer. Dues for regular members are \$5.00 plus \$4.50 for NRHS dues if you so desire for a total of \$9.50

Associate member dues for non-residents are \$3.00. However any non-resident who is employed by a railroad operating in Arkansas is eligible for regular voting membership.

Make Checks payable to Arkansas Railroad Club and send to C. R. Byrd, Treasurer, 12 Flintwood Dr. Little Rock, Ark. 72207.

JANUARY MEETING: Regular January meeting will be held Sunday January 13, 1974at 2:00 p.m. One Director will be elected at this meeting and we will hear from the nominating committee the names submitted to the board of directors for 1974. Enter from the door on the parking lot side. The meeting will be held at the New Missouri Pacific Office Building 1000 West 4th St. North Little Rock, Ark.

Arkansas Railroad Club is a not for profit organization that meets the second Sunday of each month. Time and place to be announced.