



Arkansas Railroader



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Here we go into another year of news writing and looking forward to every minute of it. 1978 was a good year for our club and we hope we can make 1979 even better. Do you realize that this club is 10 years old? It sure is and these past 10 years have been filled with many good things.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - We know you will all agree that our 1978 Christmas party at the home of Tom and Betty Sheek was just great any way you look at it. We thank them for opening their fine home to us and that food, fun and fellowship was something out of this world. Also our thanks to Fred Fillers and Dick Byrd for those wonderful slides on the Pacific Electric, D&RGW, S.P. and others.

Our January meeting will be held on Sunday, the 14th starting at 2 PM at the MOP Office Building in North Little Rock. At this writing our program is not yet firm but will be announced in another section of this newsletter when we can get more concrete information.

The most important thing for our club in January and February is our second showing of railroad antiques and artifacts in the south ground floor of the Werthen Bank and Trust Company here in Little Rock. Set up date is Saturday, January 6th starting at 9:30 AM and take down of our items is Saturday, February 3rd. The dates for showing are January 8th thru February 2nd. As you will remember our show in 1978 we only displayed items from the railroads of Arkansas. This one will be bigger and better and will feature items from railroads in all of America. So be sure and bring your goodies as it seems we will be showing a little bit of everything from dining car china to locomotive bells and whistles. We have been promised TV coverage as well as newspaper items.

AMTRAKING - Well it finally happened; Amtrak will take over Southern Railway's **SOUTHERN CRESCENT** on February 1st. Amtrak announced that under the agreement to take over the route Southern will pay Amtrak \$6.6 million in monthly installments beginning in February to help keep the service going and it is understood that the Washington-New Orleans run may be put on a daily basis a little later. The train runs daily from Washington to Atlanta and three times per week from Atlanta to New Orleans. Although we hate to see Southern give up this fine train we are glad that at least it will be continued and we trust Amtrak will operate it in the fine manner that the Southern did. The recent disastrous wreck of the Crescent we are sure hastened its demise as far as the Southern is concerned.

News from Nashville appears to indicate that the offer to restore and operate the old NCS&L 4-8-4 currently in a park at that city by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad has been turned down by the city's park commission. A similar proposal by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum had likewise been rejected.

FROM NRHS NEWS EXTRA, DECEMBER, 1978.

Some North American passenger trains named for heavenly bodies

<u>NAME OF TRAIN</u>	<u>RAILROADS</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Estrella del Sur	NdeM	Osaca	Mexico City
Meteor	SLSF	St. Louis	Oklahoma City
Morning Star	ASW	Memphis	Dallas
North Star	NYC	New York	Cleveland
Rainbow	PRR	Chicago	New York
Rainbow	MP	LittleRock	Kansas City
Silver Comet	RF&P-SAL	Washington	Birmingham
Silver Meteor	PRR-RF&P-SAL	New York	Miami
Silver Star	PRR-RF&P-SAL	New York	Miami
Star	LV	New York	Buffalo
Starlight	SP	Los Angeles	San Francisco

The above from THE TRAINMASTER, Pacific Northwest Chapter, NRHS.

~~MEMBERS~~

DUES

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That time is here again. Please make every effort to get your dues in as soon as possible. There is no change; Regular membership dues are \$7.50 and associate member \$5.00. You can send your check to Treasurer Dick Byrd at his home address which is 12 Flintwood Drive, Little Rock, 72207 or give them to Dick at the next meeting. Your dues are what helps to operate the club. Any donations are always welcome (if you have any surplus) but for our club and any other club for that matter, donations now are very rare indeed. Old man inflation is keenly being felt.

We regret losing our good members, the E. S. Conkle's who have moved to Aiken, South Carolina. Both have been good and loyal members and we will miss them. They intend however to be associate members so they will still be members of our club. Their new address is No. 10 Cardinal Circle, Aiken, S.C. 29801.

Welcome to new members, our first of the new year (associate) David L. Briggs of Warren, Michigan. Dave, until moving to Michigan, was associated with the Blackhawk Chapter, NRHS at Joliet, Illinois and is an expert on passenger cars. If you have any questions on passenger cars, past and present Dave can give you an answer. If you do, give them to your ed and I will pass them on to Dave.

JANUARY PROGRAM: Our program for January is still not firm; however it will be either a speaker or a slide presentation. Either will be very interesting so please plan to be present and lets start 1979 out with a good attendance. Don't forget to bring those visitors and keep trying to secure new members.

The "old mill" (railroad slang for typewriter) I am writing on has about seen its last as far as I am concerned. Hope springs eternal as they say and I hope when you receive the next newsletter that it will be typed on a better one. This one is at least 20 years old and has taken many a cussing when used.

So long for now, see you at the January meeting.

Bill Merok - Editor

The Arkansas Railroad Club is a non profit organization. Regular meetings held the second Sunday of each month at the Missouri Pacific Office Building in North Little Rock. Refreshments usually available (coffee-cakes-cookies) and visitors are always welcome. Send news items and exchange newsletters to editor at 5007 Hawthorne Rd., Little Rock, Ark. 72207.