



Arkansas Railroader



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JANUARY - 1981 W. A. "BILL" MERCK EDITOR

EDITOR'S ADDRESS: 5007 HAWTHORNE RD. LITTLE ROCK AR 72207

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1981

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PRESIDENT	-	BILL ALESSI	SECRETARY	-	BOSS HOLT
VICE PRESIDENT	-	JIM BENNETT	TREASURER	-	DICK BYRD
		N.R.H.S. CONTACT		-	GENE HULL

Am sure you will agree that the above will make the club a fine slate of officers for this year and know that you will give them your fullest cooperation. They will only be successful with your help.

JANUARY PROGRAM: Our first program of the new year will be another slide presentation given by Ken Combs. It will be similar to the other one given by Ken in 1980 which was a contest with prizes awarded. Rules are on Page 3 of the newsletter. Date is the 11th at 2 PM at the Missouri Pacific Office Building in North Little Rock. Lets start off the year with another good attendance and bring those visitors. Attendance last year was possibly the best the club has ever had with several new members added.

DUES

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Folks its that time again for paying your dues for 1981. As most of you know they have been increased with resident membership set at \$10.00 and associate at \$7.50; so dig down in that billfold or in your purse (lady members) and lets get them in. If you wish to mail your dues please do not send your check to your editor but send to the following:

C. R. Byrd
12 Flintwood Drive
Little Rock, AR 72207

Sending them to your editor only makes for double handling. Most of you I am sure will want to pay them at our meeting.

In December of last year two former Rock Island locos were seen at the old Biddle Yard which were sent in for clean up operations. They were R.I. switcher #829 in the original color paint; and #4354 in THE ROCK color, the latter with name "FRANK J. MCGARR." The former was an SW-8, the latter a GP 38-2. We were unable to determine just how these engines reached Little Rock, possibly over Mo.Pacific. Surely they could not have moved over the weed infested old roadbed of the former ROCK. Understand some old equipment was still at Stuttgart, Ark. and one engine was seen moving over the Stuttgart branch. They could not have moved more than 5 miles per hour over this branch line. The Rock's demise has got to be the saddest thing in railroading in 1980.

Georgia-Pacific Corporation of Crossett, Arkansas have announced that one of their subsidiaries, the Fordyce & Princeton Railroad, have signed a \$1.9 million agreement to buy operating rights and 52 miles of track between Fordyce and Whitlow Jct., from the bankrupt Rock Island. Under the agreement F. & P. will obtain operating rights for five miles between Whitlow Junction and Crossett; this section of track is owned by the Ashley, Drew & Northern which is also a subsidiary of Ga-Pacific. Approval still must receive final OK from Rock Island and the I.C.C. The Rock Island picture in Arkansas is still a puzzle as to who is going to get what, etc. Perhaps by the end of this year we might see something concrete.

Your editor is in receipt of a dandy new publication of the Memphis Chapter, NRHS. Its THE MEMPHIS BUFF, same name as the old publication but with a new editor and staff. Note that the chapter plans to include in future issues interesting articles on railroading in the Memphis area. With Memphis so close to Little Rock news from that city and area are always interesting and welcome. Have always thought that Memphis is a rail fan's paradise with so many roads. Congratulations to the staff of THE MEMPHIS BUFF.

MERGER NEWS: Well its now official as am sure you well know by now. B.N. and FRISCO are now one and we now have another fallen flag. It seems the flags are falling fast. What will be next??? Since we had a dandy program in 1980 on THE ROCK it might be well to give some thought to a program on the FRISCO. So if you have any Frisco collectibles or might be trying to find any, better hold on to them as they will now go fast. Frisco had quite a bit of mileage in our state and is a line rich in history. Farewell Frisco and welcome B.N. We will no doubt be seeing lots of that "Green" moving thru Arkansas in the future.

While on the subject of collectibles you are aware I am sure of the price increases by most dealers in 1980. You might have not "Seen Anything Yet", as they will go even higher this year and next, particularly dining car china. As an example, a small individual creamer from a road absorbed by the N&W a few years ago is now going for \$185.00, and a certain piece of silver flatware that you could formerly buy for \$20.00 is now going for \$45.00. If this keeps up this phase of the hobby will be only for the rich. Your editor has learned that there is no sentiment in the dining-car china and silver hobby. Most dealers could care less whether or not you worked for a certain railroad and would like a piece of china or silver from the road you worked for and might let you have it at a reduced price. They only want that "back". Too bad its got to be that way but thats the facts of life folks.

Regarding mergers, almost forgot to mention that Southern Pacific has filed an antitrust suit against Union Pacific, Western Pacific and Mo. Pacific, the suit contending that the planned merger of all three companies are engaged in discriminatory and anticompetitive practices aimed at Southern Pacific. What will happen on this is anybody's guess. It could drag out for a lengthy period.

Congratulations to associate member, Dave Briggs of Warren, Michigan for his new passenger car book. As yet I do not have a copy but glanced thru one on a recent trip to the AGE OF STREAM museum at Dallas, Texas. The two cars owned by our club are included in the book. Very nice Dave. Dave also gave your editor some credit for some information sent him when he was preparing the copy for the book. Thanks Dave.

Will look forward to seeing all of you at our January meeting and don't forget your Dues.

The Arkansas R.R. Club is a non-profit organization. Regular meetings are held (with some exceptions) on the second Sunday of each month. Visitors are always welcome and refreshments are usually available thru the courtesy of Carol Fite and Naomi Hull. Send news items and exchange newsletters to Editor.

The 1981 Arkansas Railroad Club Slide Contest

RULES

1. The contest will take place at the January 11, 1981 meeting of the Arkansas Railroad Club Meeting. The club meets at the Missouri Pacific office building , 1000 W. 4th, North little Rock, Ark.
2. The contest is open to both club members and nonmembers. Entrants may enter up to 4 slides in each category. There is no time or location restriction, aside from the fact that last year's winning slides cannot be entered. No slides may be entered in more than one category.
3. The Categories are-
 1. Steam Mainline, tourist, narrow gauge, industrial steam locomotives.
 2. Diesel Slides with diesel locomotives, RDC's, DMU's, Gas turbines, etc
 3. Electric Slides with Mainline Electric locomotives, MU's, Trolley and cable cars.
 4. General Interest Slides showing other than the locomotive as the focal point, Caboose, Depots, Trackage, People watching trains. Pictures of locomotives taken from the middle/end of the train will be placed in the appropriate locomotive category.
 5. Special Effects Night photos, Model RR, Composite slides are in this category. Sunset shots will be placed in the locomotive/general interest categories.
4. Slides will be judged by all the people present at the January meeting. All slides will be rated on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 20 (highest).
5. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd best of show, being the slides with the highest ratings. There will be a 1st in each category, and also a special "Best of Rock Island", being the Rock Island slide with the highest rating. These winners will be publicized in the Newsletter.
6. Prizes are-
 - 1st place, Best of show-8"x10" print, RR mug and RR belt buckle
 - 2nd place, Best of show-8"x10" print, RR mug
 - 3rd place, Best of show-8"x10" print, RR patch
 - Best of Rock Island-8"x10" print, Rock Island HO scale boxcar
 - 1st place, each category-RR patch
8. Slides being defined as- 126-135-127-828 and 110 transparencys in 2"x2" mounts ready to be projected. All slides will have the Photographer's name, category, and a brief description, i.e.-"Amk #22 sb at Brinkley, Ark, 30 feb 1980" on the mount.
9. All slides will be submitted to Kenneth R Combs by op at the January meeting. All slides will be returned. A better chance of winning is possible with original slides as opposed to duplicate slides.

Mail entrys- send to Kenneth R Combs
PSC Box 3818, LRAFB
Jacksonville, ARK. 72076