

ARKANSAS RAILROADER
The Arkansas Railroad Club Newsletter
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ARKANSAS SIDETRACKED BY AMTRAK

Mainline rail passenger service in Arkansas ended in the first hour of May 1, with the arrival in Little Rock of Missouri Pacific Train No. 1, a few minutes late of its scheduled time of 12:30. The train did not continue southward to Texarkana but was annulled at Little Rock. Among the last run passengers were railfans, newsmen, children and people making a first and/or last train ride. Several hundred hopeful passengers were left standing on the platform at Corning watching sadly as the train left without them. There was not enough room. The MoPac did not expect any more passengers than it could carry in one and a half cars.

On the last run north of No. 2 on April 30, the crew was C. B. Griffin, G.P. Rothermel and Bill Faulk Texarkana-Little Rock; and D. D. Hutton, C.W. Evans and B.P. Avance Little Rock-Poplar Bluff, respectively conductors, engineers and firemen. As it was, these men made the final northbound and southbound runs in Arkansas. If No. 1 had not been annulled at Little Rock, the last crew out would have been Dale White, W. E. Couch and Bob Smith.

The final consist of train No. 2 was E-8 #39, grill-coach 570 and coach 404. Final consist of No. 1 was locomotive 43 and cars 569 and 411.

Movies, slides and tape recordings of the last runs will be featured at our June 13 meeting. Time is 2:00 p.m., Room 305, Missouri Pacific Union Station.

READER DOUBLES PASSENGER SERVICE

At least Mr. Tom still carries passengers on the Reader. And in style. Trains are now running on Friday as well as Saturday.

GRIGSBY LOCOMOTIVE TO OPERATE AT EL DORADO "BOOMTOWN"

Former W. T. Carter & Brother 2-6-0 #2, now a part of the R. A. Grigsby Collection, will operate on about 800 feet of track at the Union County Fairgrounds as a part of the Boomtown Days celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of oil in Arkansas.

Passengers will be carried on a flatcar and in former Cotton Belt and Louisiana & North West caboose 214. The fairgrounds will be open 4:30 p.m. to Midnight June 12-19.

In other developments, Richard Grigsby reports the chances of a steam excursion operation out of Mountain Pine are looking very good.

M. C. & S. A. Panama Mogul 201 should be moved from Camden, Texas to Malvern sometime in late July or August.

RAILCAR FUND IS STILL SHORT

Contributions are still needed to pay the freight on our railcar. As of our last meeting, \$90 had been donated. We need about \$250 more. If you are sincerely interested in historical preservation, here is your chance to act. Tax deductable contributions may be sent to C.R. Byrd, Treasurer, 6815 Dahlia Drive, Little Rock. 72209

ARKANSAS RAIL BOOKS RECOMMENDED

The JLC&E by Lee A. Dew, ASU Press \$2.50. Available by mail from ASU Bookstore, State Univ., Ark. 72467

Shortline Railroads of Arkansas by Clifton E. Hull, U. of Okla. Press \$9.95. Several Little Rock stores.

The North Arkansas Line by James R. Fair, Howell-North \$7.50. Try Joe's Hobby Shop, Little Rock.