

ARKANSAS RAILROADER
ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER
VOL. 5 NO. 6 JUNE, 1974

JUNE MEETING: The regular business meetings have been suspended until September. An informal get together will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday June 9 at the Missouri Pacific Building, 1000 West 4th St., North Little Rock. Bring your slides, film, pictures or what have you.

MAY MEETING: The May meeting was held Sunday, May 12th at the Missouri Pacific Building. It was voted to suspend all business meetings until September due to vacations. An interesting film was provided entitled "This is Burlington Northern" as well as films of fan trips on the Espee and Pacific Electric provided by program chairman Fred Fillers.

CLUB ASHTRAYS: Ash trays have been ordered in the shape of the State of Arkansas with the club emblem in the center. Price is not determined yet.

NEW SHORTLINE: The Louisiana Midland Railway began operation on April 28th. Originally part of the ICG, the 75.4 miles of track extend from Vidalia to Packton, Louisiana and connect with the ICG, MP and L&A railroads.

AMTRAK RESERVATIONS: AMTRAK has announced a new policy to help reduce standing room only crowds that have filled the Inter-American through Little Rock since its inauguration. Advance reservations are now required for coach seats. It is requested that sleeper and coach reservations be made at least two weeks in advance, however, short coach trips to Dallas and St. Louis may be handled on five days notice.

AUTO-TRAIN: The Auto-Train Corp is working on the development of a new rack car that will carry 12 rather than eight automobiles. The tri-level car would increase the number of cars that could be carried on each trip from 160 to 180.

FLY AMTRAK: Amtrak encourages its employees to use Amtrak whenever possible. However, according to a memo from the Amtrak Controller to president Roger Lewis, employees bought more than \$600,000 worth of airline tickets last year. "E! Sprit de corps?"

ATSF TRackage RIGHTS: Apparently the I.C.C. feels that the Espee has some trackage in Texas capable of carrying passenger trains. An order issued by Review Board No 5 authorizes the Santa Fe to acquire trackage rights for PASSENGER TRAINS over a portion of the Southern Pacific trackage between West Junction and Houston, Texas a distance of 14.34 mi.

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FAIRWELL TO THE "CHIEFS": The Santa Fe has withdrawn permission for Amtrak to use the name "Chief" on any of its trains. Alleging that service did not come up to the Chief and Super Chief, ATSF ordered that the name no longer be used. Thus the "LONE STAR" returns to the rails replacing the "TEXAS CHIEF". A name long carried on the drum head of Cotton Belt Passenger Trains will once more be seen gliding through Texas.

CLUB MUSEUM BUILDING PROJECT: Work has begun on the sight preparation for the Club Building in North Little Rock. We should have a progress report at the informal June meeting.

Arkansas Railroad Club is a not for profit corporation that meets on the second Sunday of Each month at the Missouri Pacific Building, 400 West 4th St. North Little Rock, Arkansas. For further information write P. O. Box 5584 Little Rock, Arkansas 72205