



Arkansas Railroader



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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W. A. 'BILL' MERCK EDITOR

JUNE PROGRAM: Our meeting for June will be held on Sunday the 8th starting at 2 PM at the Missouri Pacific Office Building in North Little Rock. Program will be given by Gene Hull; however at this time cannot give you the subject of his program. In all probability it will be on the F&WMA RAILROAD. Our double header program in May was excellent given by Bill Bailey and Mike Condren. Attendance was rather small but it was Mother's day and this may have accounted for the light turnout. As far as is known now we still plan on having a "Farewell To Rock Island" program in July. We will probably forego our usual picnic in July but your editor is trying to work something else out that I hope can be announced at the June meeting.

A cordial welcome was extended to Mr. Dennis Smith of the Arkansas Power & Light Company who was a visitor at our May meeting. Visitors are always welcome and when they visit us we are always hopeful that they will become future members. So, please keep bringing them. Our club needs to grow some anyway.

MERGER NEWS: News of potential mergers is developing so fast that its becoming hard to keep up with. BN-FRISCO was to have taken place on May 19th but a strong opponent of the merger (M-K-T) brought suit to halt it; however advice from local Frisco traffic office is that this may really not amount to much and it looks now that everything is all set. The FRISCO FLAG will probably not be with us too much longer. And, while on mergers news is now out on a really 'biggie' - SANTA FE-SOUTHERN PACIFIC. If approved the combined line would cover 25,000 rail miles, from the West Coast stretching eastward to Chicago and to the Gulf of Mexico and would give Santa Fe its long desired access to St. Louis. As additional information am quoting excerpts from a very fine newsletter received from the SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER, NRHS, BEAUMONT, TEXAS. (Quote) For an initial period the two railroad subsidiaries would continue their present identities and home offices, but would operate under a new railroad holding company to be called SOUTHERN PACIFIC & SANTA FE RAILWAY CO. Santa Fe's lack of enthusiasm for the Rock Island between Tucumcari and Memphis is much more understandable since they will get to Memphis via the Cotton Belt. (Unquote). This information is rather lengthy and cannot quote all of it since additional space in the newsletter is just not all that available. If you are interested in reading all of it please contact me. There is nothing new to report at this time on the Rock Island situation. The Cotton Belt and MOP are now operating parts of it in Arkansas; just who gets what remains to be seen.

On Friday, May 16th, the STUTTGART DAILY LEADER, STUTTGART, ARKANSAS, published a CENTENNIAL EDITION. In this edition was a very fine article entitled "CITY RODE RAILS TO PROSPERITY", written by none other than one of our members, Jim Bennett. This article contains loads of photos of both Cotton Belt and Rock Island and we wish to congratulate Jim on this excellent article. Our club is fortunate in having three wonderful writers in Jim Bennett, Gene Hull and Mike Adams. Don't believe any of our sister clubs can boast of any better. Don't you agree?? Also nearly forgot (excuse please) good friend and member, Ernie Deane of Fayetteville, Ark. Ernie is a professional writer, the best and at one time was a newspaper editor.

SOME CHOICE INFORMATION ON A FAVORITE SUBJECT - DINING CARS

The late FRED HARVEY was one of the world's greatest restaurant men, if not the greatest. When people think of the SANTA FE they automatically think of Fred Harvey. But, did you know Harvey once operated dining car services on another railroad. Which one? None other than the one that's about to lose its flag; the FRISCO. This happened in the twenties and early thirties after which Frisco took over and operated their own dining car service. Harvey could have well operated dining car services on other railroads but if so we do not know which ones. Who could forget that mouth watering food served in such elegance and style as Fred Harvey dining cars and restaurants.

Below are a couple of quotes from news article sent your editor by E. S. Conkle, Aiken, S.C. E.S. is now one of our good associate members and for a long period of time was a resident member when living in North Little Rock. This article entitled "DINING CARS" "In terms of adding to the romance of the rails, dining cars were fantastic. They were the past part of the trip. Imagine the process of selecting between fresh Rocky Mountain trout and Tournedos of Beef Tenderloin while in the midst of the Rockies of Colorado. Or on mundane business trips arriving in Memphis fortified by a ham omlette. On Southern's old train, the Tennessean, you could do it. It left Knoxville about 9:30 pm and got to Memphis before business hours. Breakfast was somewhere around Rossville or Collierville in West Tennessee! "Dining cars are unique and delightful. If you've had the pleasure of dining in one. Wouldn't you agree?" To this your editor adds an "Amen", it sure was the highlight of any rail trip to eat in the diner.

Now for the special attention of our lady members in the club, shown below are a couple of recipes picked at random from a booklet published by the Southern Pacific in the forties and fifties entitled "OUR DINING CAR RECIPES". Will try and not make any typographical errors so that you will not burn anything on the stove, etc, etc. Here we go:

HOT CAKES

(6 Cakes)

1 cupful flour

1/2 cupful milk

1 tablespoonful sugar

1 tablespoonful melted butter

1 teaspoonful baking powder

1 egg

Pinch of salt.

Blend flour with dry ingredients and pass through sieve. Beat egg and melted butter in milk, add blend, making a soft batter

MACARONI MEAT LOAF

(6 Servings)

1 package macaroni

1 cupful bread crumbs

1 tablespoonful grated onions

1/2 green pepper, chopped

1 tablespoonful parsley

chopped

3 eggs

1 teaspoonful salt

1 cupful milk

3/4 cupful ground raw meat

Cook macaroni until tender and drain. Combine with remaining ingredients. Pour into a buttered loaf pan. Bake in a moderate oven (325 degrees) for 30 to 45 minutes. Serve with tomato sauce.

The above are only two of many recipes used by Southern Pacific chefs on dining, coffee shop, cafe and snack cars on all its major daily passenger trains as well as soda fountains and news stands at various stations. We know that AMTRAK is serving some good meals in their dining cars; but--can they ever equal the food served back in the golden era of the railroad operated dining cars. What do you think???

THE ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPTIONS USUALLY ARE JULY AND DECEMBER) VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND REFRESHMENTS USUALLY AVAILABLE. SEND ALL NEWS ITEMS AND EXCHANGE NEWS-LETTERS TO EDITOR AT 5007 HAWTHORNE ROAD, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207.

KEEP IN MIND PLEASE OUR SALE-SWAP-DISPLAY SHOW SET FOR SEPTEMBER 27TH at HOLIDAY INN, NORTH LITTLE ROCK. TALK IT UP ALL FEASIBLE AND LETS MAKE IT A BIG SUCCESS.

Hope to see all of you at the June meeting.

Special Breakfast

No. 1 — \$1.00

Choice — Prunes, Tomato or Orange Juice
Fruit in Season — Cereals with Cream
Choice — Boiled, Fried or Scrambled Eggs
Ham, Bacon, Cheese or Spanish Omelet
Corn Beef Hash with Fried Egg
Ham or Bacon with Eggs
Potatoes
Toast - Preserves or Marmalade
Tea - Coffee - Cocoa - Milk - Sanka

No. 2 — 80c

CONTINENTAL

Choice — Juice or Fresh Fruit in Season
Choice — Cereals with Cream
Toast - Marmalade
Tea - Coffee - Cocoa - Milk - Sanka

BREAKFAST

A LA CARTE

Fruit

Tomato Juice 25 Grapefruit Juice 20
Breakfast Prunes 25 Orange Juice 20 Half Grapefruit 25
Texas Figs with Cream 40 Marmalade 25
Apple Juice 25 Pineapple Juice 25

Cereals with Cream

Breakfast Cereals, Dry or Cooked 35

Eggs and Omelettes

Boiled, Fried or Scrambled 40
Plain Omelette 60; with Ham 95, Jelly 90, Cheese 75
Poached on Toast (2) 50

Meats

Sugar Cured Ham 75 Breakfast Bacon 75
Bacon and Eggs 95 Ham and Eggs 95
Corned Beef Hash with Fried Egg 80

Potatoes

Hashed Brown 25 American Fried 25

Breads

Buttered Toast 15
Griddle Cakes with Syrup 40; with Honey 45
Milk Toast 35 Cream Toast 50

Drinks

Coffee (Pot) 25 Cocoa (Pot) 25 Tea (Pot) 25
Kaffee Hag Coffee, Instant Postum or Sanka 25
Milk (Bottle) 20

Please write on check each item desired; employees are strictly forbidden to write meal checks or serve orders given orally. Patrons are requested to refuse payment unless check written in their own handwriting and properly priced, is presented at conclusion of service.

Consult Walter in y... in case of Discrepancy.

A. M. CAMPBELL, Superintendent
Dining Car Department, Texarkana, Texas