

DARDANELLE AND RUSSELVILLE

A&LM



# Arkansas Railroader

DELTA VALLEY & SOUTHERN



COTTON PLANT-FARGO RAILWAY

WARREN & SALINE RIVER



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Amtrak

## DE QUEEN AND EASTERN

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MARCH 1976

### CONTINUED

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March business meeting will be on Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 PM at the new MOP Office Building, 1000 West 4th St., North Little Rock. Mr. Howard Watson, Freedom Train Co-ordinator for Little Rock-North Little Rock will give a slide presentation on activities of the Freedom Train in our area. Trust we will have a good attendance to get all details on the train.

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### MUSEUM SALES COMMITTEE

Naomi Hull and her committee are doing a grand job and at our March meeting there will be additional "Goodies" and some surprises are in store for us. Thanks Naomi.

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### ATTENTION: STEAM FANS

Your attention is invited to the announcement of two steam excursion trains coming up very soon. The first is the "Rails To Rockets" from Chattanooga, Tenn. to the Space Museum at Huntsville, Ala. on Saturday, April 24th and Sunday, April 25th. This trip will be sponsored by the Southern Railway

and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. See your editor for further details. The second trip is closer to home: This one is to be by the Southern Railway and the Sentimental Journey Committee of Memphis. Dates are May 1 and 2 from Memphis to Corinth, Miss. and return. There will be the usual consist; both air conditioned and open window coaches, commissary car, tape recorder car and the popular open observation car. Adult tickets are \$20.00 each, and children's ticket \$18.00 each. Reservations may be made thru the Sentimental Journey Committee P.O. Box 17672, Memphis, TN. 38117 or, tickets may be purchased at Hobbies of Memphis, 4515 Poplar Ave. or at Hobbies of Balmoral, 6090 Quince Rd. Memphis. Power on both trains will be one of your favorites and mine, No. 4501, (Ex-Southern Ry.) (What a Beauty) Am sure there will be a good showing from our club on the Memphis trip.

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### BICENTENNIAL DIESELS

On January 30th the Missouri Pacific unveiled two freshly painted diesel locomotives in the Bicentennial colors. They were displayed to the public at a ceremony in North Little Rock. The engines were numbered No. 1776 and 1976.

## ARKANSAS RAILROADER - MARCH, 1976

### POPULARITY PLUS

Did you know that the Florida East Coast R.R. ran Seven Complete Sections of their Florida Special on February 29th, 1936. This was FEC. Train No. 87. This may have been and still may be, a record for the number of sections of a passenger train operated in one day. FEC public timetable for December 11, 1936 shows the trains lined up for departure from Jacksonville to Miami. Talk about popularity--this was it.

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### ATTENDANCE

Attendance at both the January and February meetings has been excellent. Lets hope we can continue this way a 1 year. Don't forget to bring your friends and neighbors who show an interest in railroads. Is there any hobby more interesting? It is doubtful.

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Don't forget the Johnny Cash Special from Rison, Ark. to Kingsland on March 20th. Have heard nothing to the contrary so presume the trip is still on. This train, as you know, will be run by the COTTON BELT and as lined up now will use Bicentennial Diesel SS#-SP No. 9389. This engine has assisted the FREEDOM TRAIN at several spots in the West, notably over Tehachapi Pass in California. (See Trains Magazine for March for a good photo)

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### THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In your Editor's possession is a dining car menu from the Great Northern Empire Builder. It is not dated but from the meal prices quoted it must have been back in the thirties; Listen to this: Cigarettes 15¢, 20¢ and 25¢ per package; The Main Dinner: Crisp Celery, Green and Ripe Olives or Tomato Juice Frappe; Fresh Seasonable Fish; Combination Empire Grill, Lamp Chop, Bacon, Tenderloin or

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Mushrooms; Fried Milk Fed Chicken, Charcoal Broiled Sirloin Steak Rasher Bacon, Assorted cold meats, Sliced Tomato, Baked Potato, Fresh Green Vegetable, Glacier Salad, Hot Tea Biscuits, Assorted Cold Bread, Cantaloupe A La Mode, Ice Cream, Coffee, Tea, Milk or Postom. THE CLINCHER: All this for \$1.25. What a treat. Every time I look at this menu I get awfully hungry.

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### AMTRAK NEWS

Low-cost passes allowing travelers to take unlimited trips on Amtrak trains will be sold in the United States for the first time during a 2½-month experiment starting March 1st. The passes, to be known as U.S.A. Rail tickets will allow adults to purchase tickets allowing unlimited train travel anywhere on the Amtrak system for two weeks for \$150. The cost will rise to \$200 for 21-day passes and to \$250 for passes allowing unlimited travel for 30 days. Children between the ages of 2 and 11 will be able to purchase the passes for half price. It was also announced that the Southern Railway had agreed to accept the passes for travel on Southern trains after March 15th.

AMTRAK CONTINUED

Amtrak's Inter-American thru Little Rock on the evening of February 13th had two extra 48-seat coaches in the consist. These two cars carried 66 passengers which consisted of an A.A.R. group enroute from St. Louis to Austin, Texas. This group returned from Austin on the 16th using the same equipment. At this time numbers of the extra cars are unavilable.

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COM-RAIL NEWS

The U. S. Senate has approved a \$2,026 billion (oh boy) appropriation for reorganizing seven financially ailing Northeast and Midwest railroads into a single government-supported railway system. These lines, as you may already know, are the Penn Central, Erie Lackawanna, Reading, Central of New Jersey, Ann Arbor, Lehigh and Hudson River and the Lehigh Valley. By April there should be some start-up of the system. Lets hope for the best for Con-Rail.

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The Rock Island has accepted an offer from the 20th Century R.R. of Chicago for its members to paint a R.I. locomotive in Bicentennial colors as a gift from the club. Plans call for the engine to be ready for the "RailFair, 1976" which will be held in May at the LaSalle Street Station in Chicago. (Thanks to Central New York Chapter N.R.H.S. Inc.)

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The club has a letter from a rail fan in Exton, Pa. who wants photos and information on the W.&O.V. and ~~W.S.R.~~ Railroads in Arkansas.

Your editor has no photos of either of these lines. Of course the W.&O.V. is now part of the Rock Island. If you can supply let me know.

LETTERHEAD

If you disapprove of the adding of the Ark. Lines to the letterhead please let me know. There are several short lines that perhaps could have been included but the ones shown are a good sampling of the lines operating in good old Arkansas.

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Mike Adams article entitled "The Fast Mail" will hopefully be run (at least in parts) in the April newsletter. Space is limited, postage is high, etc.

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Spring is in the air and the urge to get out and ride on a train is coming on. Bob Dortch, Scott and Bearskin Lake, are you listening???? Also getting anxious to see the Reader again.

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BICENTENNIAL CABOOSE

The COTTON BELT is operating in Main Line trains Bicentennial Caboose No. 1776. Am advised rear end crews using it are very proud of it.

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A Reminder---Don't forget to pay your DUES for 1976.

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JUST FOR LAUGHS



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The ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB is a non-profit organization that meets the second Sunday of each month in the Missouri Pacific Office Building, 1000 West 4th St. North Little Rock, Ark. For information write P. O. Box 5584, Little Rock, Ark. 72205.