



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Arkansas Railroader



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 5

MAY 1977

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**MAY MEETING:** Our May meeting will again be held on the third Sunday of the month with the date being May 15th. We will meet at our regular place, the Missouri Pacific Office Building in North Little Rock starting at 2 PM. The program will be presented by Jack See. From information received so far Jack will present a film on depot architecture which should prove very interesting. Thanks to Gene Hull for a fine program at our April meeting. These slides he showed of famous passenger train travel folders of bygone days brought back many memories. Wish we had all of them today.

**AMTRAKING ON THE LOCAL SCENE:** Effective April 24th the schedule of the north-bound Inter-American, No. 22 was changed as follows:

### NO. 22 DAILY

Ar. L. Rock	6:10 AM
Lv. L. Rock	6:20 AM
Ar. St. Louis	2:00 PM
Lv. St. Louis	4:00 PM
Ar. Chicago	9:25 PM

The schedule of No. 21, southbound remains the same. New systemwide schedules should be available soon. One of our local newspaper writers has taken Amtrak to task for the schedule change in that No. 22 now misses connection with the National Limited at St. Louis in order to pacify our neighbors across the border in Mexico who run the Aztec Eagle, this writer maintaining that the "Eagle" is very seldom on time. Well we won't get into this. Its just nice to know that we still have the Inter-American serving our city no matter what schedule it is on.

**CARS PURCHASED:** The Fifteen cars from the American Freedom Train have reportedly been purchased by a group of Boston Lawyers for a bit over \$500,000. Their plans are to convert the cars into a traveling sports museum by packing them with all manner of sports memorabilia and displaying them along the same route taken by the AFT during its two year journey into the 48 contiguous states. An estimated 7½ million people visited the AFT. (GREEN BLOCK, CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER NRHS, INC.) Editor's Note: With Arkansas being one of the greatest sports minded states in the Nation, hopefully the train will visit here. These lawyers must have heard of the "Razorbacks", hopefully.

ARKANSAS RAILROADER CONTINUED

LETTER HEADING: You will notice that this month's newsletter is minus the emblems of the Arkansas Lines in the heading. Since this is YOUR newsletter, do you like the emblems in the letter head or would you rather just have the regular printed letterhead used?? Let your editor know.

Am going to apologize to Gene Hull again. His excellent article entitled, "An Arkansas Railroad Defeats A President" will eventually be run to a conclusion, hopefully in the September issue of The Railroader. Remember that there will be no newsletter published during the months of June, July and August. Hope that all of us will not lose contact however. Lets plan on some go t together for "Sandhouse" talk if nothing else. Above everything, just because its summertime again don't let your interest die down in everything pertaining to the rails. If any of you make a trip anywhere and you pursue your hobby; collecting, train watching or whatever please let your editor know; who knows there may be a good story you can bring back that can be run in some future edition of the newsletter.

THE RED BARON: Understand Cotton Belt has a fast engineer down around Mt. Pleasant, Texas known as the Red Baron; named no doubt from World War I Air Ace, Baron Von Ritzheven. Understand he keeps the schedule with fast running with freights of 100 cars or more. Engine crews have many nicknames which has been common over the years; probably the most famous of course was Casey Jones.

NO. 4501 EXCURSION: Our old favorite No. 4501 will, as most of you already know, pull another one of these delightful Sentimental Journey trips from Memphis, Tennessee to Corinth, Mississippi on May 7th and 8th. Several in the club will make the trip, including your President and Editor. We are all certainly indebted to the Southern Railway for making it possible for us old steam fans to make these trips. It all started when Mr. Graham Claytor of Southern Railway decided that all steam fans would again like to ride behind that form of locomotion that nothing else can equal, S T & A M. Mr. Claytor, is as most of you know, now Secretary Of The Navy under Boss Jimmy Carter. When his term of office is over hope that he will return among us. Met him once and found him to be a First Class Gentleman in every respect. Thanks Mr. Claytor for making it all possible. Don't you wish that some of our Arkansas Railroads would do something like this? The response would be terrific and the publicity gained would be priceless. Wouldnt Ex Cotton Belt No. 819 in the park at Pine Bluff be a good one on a fan trip? What an engine; incidentally its the largest steamer on display in the state; sadly, like the others, it has been vandalized. While on the subject of excursions, understand Ex T&P No. 610 will soon be ready for excursion service on Southern Railway and will see service at the NRHS Annual Convention in Roanoke, Virginia this year. Perhaps, who knows, we might get it into Memphis for Sentimental Journey in 1978.

Our good friend and new member, Harry Coanley, packed up and took off with his wife on a trip to Europe with the first stop Austria. Have a sneaking suspicion that Harry will do some European train riding while over there. He should be back for our May meeting. If the Illinois Central Gulf needs a good booster they have him in the person of Harry.

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The Arkansas Railroad Club is a non-profit organization. Usual meeting time is the second Sunday of each month (except June, July and August). Meeting held at the MOP Building, 1000 West 4th, North Little Rock. For information address the club at P.O. Box 5584 (Until July 1st), Little Rock, Ark. 72215. Visitors and friends always welcome.

SEE YOU IN MAY