

ARKANSAS RAILROADER  
ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER  
VOL. 4 NO. 10      OCTOBER 1974

OCTOBER MEETING: Regular October business meeting will be held Sunday, October 13, at 2:00 p.m. at the Missouri Pacific Office Building, 1000 West 4th Street North Little Rock. All members are urged to attend.

PREAMBLE EXPRESS: At 4:15 p.m. Monday, September 30, AFTX 951, the PREAMBLE EXPRESS pulled into Little Rock Union Station on its route checking journey pre-saging the FREEDOM TRAIN that will traverse roughly the same route in the bi-centennial year of 1976.

It had recently traded its Delaware & Hudson diesel for a Union Pacific E-9 freshly repainted in red, white & blue. Its consist of kitchen car, dining car, parlor and brass platformed observation spent the night on the AMTRAK rail of Union Station.

A breakfast was held aboard on October 1 for the city fathers and those involved with preparations for the bi-centennial celebration prior to interchanging with the Rock Island at noon for the next leg of the trip to Memphis.

NEW PASSENGER SERVICE INAUGURATED: NEW YORKER magazine, in its TALK OF THE TOWN column in the August 26th issue carried an article on the inaugural run of the ADIRONDAK.

This train is financed principally by the New York State Department of Transportation and replaces the LAURENTIAN that traversed this route in pre-Amtrak days.

The article gives much of the credit for the new service to Mr. Carl Bruce Sterzing, Jr. the new president of the Delaware & Hudson Railway, the line that takes the train from Albany, N.Y. to the Canadian Border.

Mr. Sterzing has all the earmarks of a bona fide rail fan, a type that we need more of in the high places of railroading. For the inaugural run, he provided 4 day coaches recently re-furnished, re-upholstered, re-vacuumed re-painted etc. for the initial leg from Grand Central to Albany. For the balance of the trip over his lines, he added several more day coaches, a dining car, a double decker dome lounge, coffee shop car and his own private car. All were repainted in D&H Blue and Yellow.

Mr. Sterzing joined the train at Albany and reportedly, as a true rail fan, headed immediately for the lead diesel. Perhaps we have another railroad president in the country who is interested in railroading as such and not as just another job.

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ASHTRAYS AVAILABLE: We have received a supply of ash trays for sale. They are of square ceramic with a depression in the outline of the state of Arkansas. The club emblem is in the center. These are available at a cost of \$2.50. We also have a supply of round ash trays with the Missouri Pacific Logo in the center at \$2/25 each.

FOOTBALL SPECIAL: AMTRAK made arrangements to provide rail passenger service to Ft. Worth, Texas for the Arkansas TCU football game on the weekend of October 5-6. Special cars were affixed to the INTER-AMERICAN of Friday evening and returned to Little Rock on Monday Mornigg. The fare included round-trip transportation, Ticket to the ball game, transportation to and from the stadium and Motel Accommodations. At the time of this writing, it was virtually a sell-out. "Nobody wants to ride a passenger train."

AMTRAKING: Amtrak has added "New" equipment to the INTER-AMERICAN. Mostly from the SP Sunset and Shasta. On recent occasions, the consist was.

Sept. 20, 1974

8321	Dining-Bar Lounge	ex-SP 10408	SUNSET LIMITED
4843	48 Seat Coach	ex-SP 2357	COAST DAYLIGHT
4845	48 Seat Coach	ex-SP 2359	SHASTA DAYLIGHT
2680	10/6 Sleeper	ex-SP 9000	SUNSET LIMITED
506	Dormitory Car	ex-USA 89506	U.S.Army HOSPITAL

On September 15, AMTRAK opened two new stations in Arkansas as stops for the INTER-AMERICAN. Schedule now calls for stops at Newport and Walnut Ridge.

BUILDING PROJECT: Work is progressing slowly on the club building. Roofing and insulation have been applied. Framing is up and siding ready to be installed. Willing hands are badly needed before bad weather sets in.

NEW EQUIPMENT ORDER: In the largest single order in its history MISSOURI PACIFIC has authorized more than \$110 million for the purchase of 3,000 freight cars and 80 diesels in 1975. The 80 locomotives will include 52 of the 3000 hp 6 of 2,250 hp, 12 of 2,000 hp and 10 of 1,500 hp. In addition 31 more locomotives have been ordered for 1975. (From the BULLETIN BOARD of Trinity Valley RR Club)

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MEMPHIS SPECIAL: More than a dozen representatives of the Little Rock Chapter showed up at Buntyn Station in Memphis on September 14th to board the Memphis Special to Corinth, Mississippi.

Headed up by Southern Mikado #4501 and with a consist of a recorder car, two open air cars, one of which was an observation, the QUEEN & CRESCENT Commissary Car, 5 heavy weight coaches, 4 modernized coaches and the Lake Pearl sleeper, the SPECIAL pulled out at 8:00 a.m. on a misty Saturday.

A capacity crowd estimated in the neighborhood of 800 were aboard. They ranged everywhere from railfans, photography buffs, grandparents taking the grandchildren on a train ride to nostalgia seekers.

A photo runby was provided on the outbound run at about midway of the journey and at noon when it pulled into Corinth, the local Jaycees had prepared a concession in the city park to provide lunch for those so inclined. Watering of the cars and engine was capably handled by the Corinth Fire Department.

Turning of the train was accomplished on the wye at Corinth with the able assistance of GM&O #623 a GP35 that was standing by for the purpose inasmuch as a portion of the Wye is over the ICG main.

Sun returned to the skies on the return trip and an unscheduled run by was provided following a request from Jim Wilson to Mr. W. Graham Claytor, Jr. President of the Southern. Your editor had the privilege of meeting Mr. Claytor on this trip and must immediately agree with all who know him that this is the type of railroader that we should have more of in high places of railroading. ED

Arkansas Railroad Club is a non-profit organization. Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at the Missouri Pacific Office Building, 1000 West 4th St., North Little Rock. For information write P. O. Box 5584 Little Rock, Arkansas 72205