

ARKANSAS RAILROADER
The Arkansas Railroad Club Newsletter
Vol. 1, No. 9 September, 1970

AUGUST PICNIC MEET AT MALVERN SUCCESSFUL. . . About fifty people, including members of the Arkansas Railroad Club, their families, and guests attended the August 8 meeting at Malvern. Except for a few disparaging remarks about the editor's ability as a carpenter, everything went smoothly. The Grigsbys fired up #7 and gave rides to all who wanted them, which was almost everyone, including a few passersby. Do you think we could talk Richard and Anthony into making this an annual event.

ROCK ISLAND TRAINS TO OPERATE OVER BARING CROSS BRIDGE. . . Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific traffic to and from Memphis was scheduled to be routed over the Missouri Pacific's Baring Cross Bridge starting at midnight, September 6, while the new lift span is installed in the Rock Island bridge at Little Rock. This operation should take two days, if the span fits. A temporary connection has been laid from the Rock Island mainline near the Union Station to the MoPac's station tracks. The Rock Island trains will run over the outside station track (track 5) to reach the MoPac mainline and the Baring Cross bridge. In North Little Rock, the trains will return to Rock Island trackage by way of the St. Louis-Southwestern interchange.

C. R. BYRD & C. H. OST PRESENT "NARROW GAUGE '70 REPORT AND EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTIONS". . . At the September 13 meeting, that is. This will include recent photos of the Silverton train as well as a report on Chama-Antonito operations. The first run from Antonito, Colorado to Chama, New Mexico was made September 2-3 using Engine 483 and several gondolas. The trip was made to test the track of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic R.R. owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico. Dual-gauge track between Alamosa and Antonito will be standard-gauge only after all narrow-gauge equipment is removed from Alamosa. Volunteers from four states have been working on the track and manned the train. The two states are looking for some responsible party to operate the railroad for them.

Other slides by these showmen will include A.T.S.F. 2-10-4 #5021 and 4-8-4 #2925 which are stored in the Belen, N. M. roundhouse in very good condition. There will also be pictures of Reader #108 in greasepaint, with diamond stack, wood in the tender, and a fake headlight for a Miller's beer commercial.

NORMAN BRANCH FANTRIP STILL A POSSIBILITY. . . Efforts are still being made to arrange a special run over MoPac's Norman branch. Current negotiations are being made by Mr. Tom Long, president of the Reader, whose locomotive #1702 and passenger equipment would be used. However there is nothing definite at this time.

SEPTEMBER 13 MEETING at 2:30 p.m., Room 305, Missouri Pacific Union Station, Markham and Victory, Little Rock, Arkansas.