



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER  
N.R.H.S.

# ARKANSAS RAILROADER



VOLUME 24 NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 1993





"The Old Homestead—Going Home for the Holidays," by Granville Perkins.  
From *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 25, 1875.

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**COVER PHOTO** - This serene scene was taken on a cool, foggy and wet April day last spring at Reader, Arkansas. Shown are two coaches of the Reader Railroad, which did not operate at all this season. The woods behind me were resonant with the sounds of crickets, frogs, various birds and a couple of sounds I couldn't make out...it was rather spooky. (*Ken Ziegenbein photo*)

## PROGRAM

# CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, **DECEMBER 18**, at Wyatt's Cafeteria on JFK in North Little Rock, beginning at 6 p.m. We will go through the regular serving line at our own expense, but will have a special room to eat in. Please call Naomi Hull at 945-5556 so she can give them a head count by December 11.

**GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT IDEA!!** Buy your friends a brand new 1994 Arkansas Railroad Club calendar! We have a few left (about 20). Cost is \$10.00 plus \$1.25 postage, total of \$11.25. Too expensive compared to other railroad calendars? That's because they run off hundreds, even thousands more copies than we do (we only ran off 200; had we run off 500, our price would have gone down to \$7 or \$8, but we couldn't have sold that many). Thanks to all who've bought one already.

**ANOTHER GIFT IDEA** comes from Charter member Mike Adams - his book called **THE WHITE RIVER RAILWAY** is available directly from him. He has a **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** for club members - he will pay the postage and state and local taxes on the books, so they will cost you only \$15.50 each (two for \$30). Please mention the *Arkansas Railroader* was where you saw his ad. Send orders to him at 3609 Lakeshore Dr, North Little Rock AR 72116.

**JANUARY 1 PROGRAM** will be a slide show by past club president **BARTON JENNINGS** on his Russia journey this year. As you know, we've been meeting on New Years Day the past two years with all-day show and tell sessions (Bart's session will begin about 10 a.m.). These holiday meetings have been very popular, since not all people worship football games. This

meeting will be at the same Twin City Bank meeting room - the guard will be notified.

**NEW OFFICERS FOR 1993 OFFICIAL** - These are our new 1994 Arkansas Railroad Club officers:

President - MATT RITCHIE  
Vice-President - TOM SHOOK  
Treasurer - DICK BYRD  
Secretary - SHARON RITCHIE  
NRHS Representative - DICK DAVIS  
Newsletter Editor - KEN ZIEGENBEIN  
Board (through 1998) - JOHN HODKIN, JR.

These were elected by ballot at the November 1994 meeting.

### ARKANSAS RAIL NEWS

**819 FACTS** - BILL BAILEY gave the following facts about the recent 819 trip to Tyler, Texas. The engine used 14 gallons of fuel per mile and 218 gallons of water. With the new auxiliary tender, it can now go 120 miles between waterings. The tenders are capable of using local fire departments rapid hookup facilities, meaning 8,600 gallons of water can be put in the tenders in 7 minutes, like they did at Camden.

They want to take the engine to the Atlanta NRHS Convention, but were told they were not needed. COME ON NRHS AND ATLANTA - THIS IS A NEW CHAPTER OF THE NRHS - FOR GOODNESS SAKES, INVITE THEM. The other NRHS groups have had their chance many times - the 819 did make it to St. Louis in 1990, but the group was not yet a NRHS member. This would be a great rare-mileage trip, and the Arkansas Railroad Club, a long-time member of the NRHS, would help with the trip. Also, the NRHS Board of Directors Meeting was held in Little Rock last March, at which time the Cotton Belt Rail Historical Society applied for membership. NRHS and Atlanta Chapter, DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON THEM NOW - it would cause some very hard feelings and cost you members.

The Southern Pacific will give the Cotton Belt group a baggage car, which will be lettered for Operation Lifesaver. They also plan a trip to Down town Shreveport, Louisiana next April, leaving on a Friday, returning on a Sunday.

**UNION PACIFIC'S E's IN TOWN** - Union Pacific's famous E-8s #951, 962 and 949 were in the North Little Rock UP yards on Friday night, November 12, reason unknown. I got a good night shot, which will be in a future newsletter. They sure looked good. Thanks to President JOHN HODKIN for letting me know of their presence.

**GREAT EXCITEMENT** - People along the White River Line of the Missouri & Northern Arkansas (former UP/MoP) through northern Arkansas were celebrating the special Branson Scenic Railway excursion held on October 26 between Branson and Norfolk and return. Newspaper articles from Batesville, Norfolk, Newport, etc., read like articles of 100 years ago when rails were first laid into an area. People came out, high school bands played

(at Norfolk) and people greeted the train as it the various towns. Many said how they wanted the BSR to continue a tourist train in the area, and that certainly looks like a possibility. Newport's *Newport Daily Independent* ran an article wanting the train to go to the Newport depot, revitalizing the downtown area.

Rail-Tex of San Antonio, owners and leasers of the line, announced on October 22 that it had an exclusive contract with the Branson Scenic Railway (see November *Railroader*) to operate the White River Limited between Diaz and Branson, Missouri.

Drucilla Hughard, a writer for the *Greenwood Democrat* of Greenwood, Arkansas, recently completed an Amtrak trip to the Pacific Northwest. She wrote on November 3: "*I began to reflect back to the years when we lived near the railroad track that crossed the highway where the doughnut shop now stands. We would run to the hill beside the track when we heard the train coming to wave at the people on the train.*" Her brother Pat and others "*liked to build a fire and cook out pretending to be hobos that were so prevalent at that time.*" As she continued her Amtrak trip through Minnesota, she "*could not help but think of all the hardships that were endured by the brave people who left their homes and families to build these great railroads across this country and how much we own these people who have helped make this way of traveling possible for us.*" (Perhaps there's some railfan in all of us)



**UNION PACIFIC RUNS OPERATION LIFESAVER** - On October 25, Union Pacific ran several Operation Lifesaver trips over the system in Arkansas, including one between Memphis and Bald Knob. There were also trips on other days out of Little Rock. High school students rode many of the trips, as well as reporters and police.

Speaking of Operation Lifesaver, our old friend JIM JOHNSON, who still gets this newsletter, now edits Operation Lifesaver newsletters for Missouri, Kansas, Southern Pacific's system, Louisiana and Colorado. His last batch had the following Lifesaver information: Approximately every 90 minutes a vehicle and train collide in the U.S. and each year approximately 600 people are killed in such collisions. On October 11, Kansas Operation Lifesaver operated a 700-mile roundtrip in central and western Kansas.

**ORPHAN TRAIN SOCIETY MEETS** - (Springdale) - Since October of 1987, the Orphan Train Society of America has met in Springdale each year commemorating the 150,000 Orphan Train riders of the 1854-1930 era. This year's meeting was held at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale on October 15. (*The Morning News, Springdale, October 17, 1993*)

**OUACHITA SCENIC RAILROAD** of Hot Springs is idle for the winter, but will begin running again next April. About 15,000 people rode the train since last summer. Operators will consider air conditioning cars and possibly creating a steam sawmill town to visit. Jody Williams is vice president of operations of the line. (*The Sentinel-Record, Hot Springs, October 16*)

**RAILROAD NOT RESPONSIBLE** - (Alix) - A Franklin County jury on October 6 found Union Pacific Railroad not responsible in a train-truck collision which killed three people at an Alix road crossing three years ago. A state trooper testified at the trial that the blood alcohol level of the driver, Noah E. Sanders, 36, of Altus, was 0.17, over the 0.10 legal limit in

Arkansas. (*Ozark Spectator, Ozark, October 14*)

**LOOKING FOR RAILROAD BUILDINGS** - The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is looking for buildings related to railroads in Lafayette, Miller, Little River and Sevier counties, among others. The period 1865-1945 is wanted. Anyone with records or photos, contact Todd Ferguson, AHPP, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center St., Little Rock AR 72201 or call 501-324-9880. (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette October 29 via Jonathan Royce*)

**NEW CROSSING RULES TO HURT SHORTLINES** - Act 726 of the Arkansas Legislature 1993 could hurt Arkansas's shortline railroads by over-regulating repairs to the state's 5,000 grade-level crossings. The act obligated the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department to prescribe how railroads will maintain crossings and prohibit freights from blocking crossings. John P. Gill, attorney for the association of the state's 21 shortlines, noted that the law required approval from mayors or county judges before railroads may repair crossings. Shortlines spend one-fifth of revenues maintaining rights-of-way and any additional costs due to these new regulations could hurt them. There is also a fine of \$2,000 if trains block crossings for more than 15 minutes. (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette October 29 via Jonathan Royce*)

### GENERAL RAIL NEWS

**KCS HOT COMPANY** - *Business Week* has picked Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc. as a hot company to keep an eye on. To be on this list of 250 companies, a company has to have sales of more than \$150 million and less than \$1 billion, must be profitable. KCS was rated 38th. (*The Kansas City Star, November 7, 1993 via Jim Johnson*)

**GM NOT SELLING LOCOMOTIVE GROUP** - (LaGrange, Illinois) - GM said in late October that it had called off plans to sell its GM Locomotive Group, which employs 5,000 in LaGrange, Illinois and London, Ontario. (*via Jonathan Royce*)

### AMTRAK NEWS



**EAGLE TRI-WEEKLY** - On November 4, as scheduled, Amtrak's *Texas Eagle* went from daily to tri-weekly between St. Louis and San Antonio. According to BILL POLLARD, a second sleeper has been added, but no additional coaches. New hours for Little Rock station are 6:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday and 3:15 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday. Its closed entirely on Fridays. Senator Pryor wrote a letter to Amtrak urging them to reconsider, as did Representative Blanche Lambert.

**PROPOSED STATION CLOSINGS** - In more cutback moves, Amtrak has proposed to close some stations to save money. They say that of Amtrak's 530 stations, 125 account for 90 percent of all Amtrak passenger revenues. This means that over 400, mostly unmanned stations, account for less than 10 percent of their revenue. Also, by July 26, 2010, all of Amtrak's stations must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, costing them

millions of dollars to upgrade the stations. In 1996 the freight railroads, which own most of these stations, will be able to charge Amtrak much more for using these unmanned stations.

Amtrak says it could retain much of the lost revenue of closing the stations by reselling of space to longer-distance passengers and by improving running times.

Here is a list of stations proposed for discontinuance:

*Cardinal* - Culpaper VA, Alderson WV, Thurmond WV, Montgomery WV, Crawfordsville IN, Dyer IN.

*Hoosier State* - Crawfordsville IN, Rensselaer IN, Dyer IN.

*Capitol Limited* - Alliance OH, Connellsville PA, Harpers Ferry WV.

*Lake Shore Limited* - Sandusky OH, Pittsfield MA.

*Montrealer* - Bellows Falls VT.

*Philadelphia-Harrisburg* - Exton PA, Whitford PA, Parkesburg PA, Mount Joy PA, Middletown PA. (The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has given money to keep trains on this route running)

*River Cities* - Belleville IL, Du Quoin IL. The elimination of Belleville will require the payment of \$13,695 to pay off the state share of construction.

*Empire Builder* - Detroit Lakes MN, Stanley ND, Cut Bank MT, Browning MT, Ephrata WA, Wishram WA, Bingen-White Salmon WA.

*Pioneer* - Green River WY, Evanston WY, Baker City OR, Hood River OR.

*California Zephyr* - Helper UT, Elko NV, Winnemucca NV, Lovelock NV.

*Desert Wind* - Milford UT, Caliente NV.

*Southwest Chief* - Streator IL, La Plata MO, Emporia KS, Lamar CO, Las Vegas NM, Winslow AZ.

*Coast Starlight* - Dunsmuir CA.

*Texas Eagle* - Poplar Bluff MO, Newport AR, Malvern AR, Arkadelphia AR, Corsicana TX, Cleburne TX, McGregor TX, Taylor TX, San Marcos TX.

*Sunset Limited* - Coolidge AZ, Lordsburg NM, Sanderson TX, New Iberia LA, Schriever LA.

*City of New Orleans* - Newbern-Dyersburg TN, Hazlehurst MS.

*Crescent* - Culpaper VA, Gastonia NC, Toccoa GA, Laurel MS, Picayune MS.

**SLEEPER ARKANSAS IN ARKANSAS** - (Little Rock) - On Saturday, November 6, the new Superliner II sleeper *Arkansas* was on display at Union Station in conjunction with the grand opening of the Children's Museum of Arkansas in the station.

**SUNSET WRECK UPDATE** - All three locomotives will be definite write-offs and the first three cars likewise, but Amtrak hopes to salvage the Superliner coach which was fully submerged in Bayou Canot (#34068). There was no indication of any wrongdoing at all on the part of Amtrak or CSX. Genesis locomotive 819 in the lead had only been outshopped September 1. It will not be replaced. (*Cinders, November 1993*)

## EXCURSIONS/SHOWS/EVENTS OF OTHER CLUBS

☞ ...note...these are listed sequentially by dates, earliest dates being first...

**OKLAHOMA CITY** - December 4, 5 - OKC Train Show at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds - call 405-842-4846 for more information.

**BRANSON, MISSOURI** - Branson Scenic Railways operates excursions every day except Tuesdays - Branson to near Bergman, Arkansas and return and Branson to near Galena, Missouri using CZ VistaDomes and an Observation car - leaves the Branson Missouri Pacific depot every day except Tuesdays through December - call for exact times - round trip takes about 1 ½ hours - a dinner train may begin soon - ticket prices are \$14.95 adults, \$13.95 senior citizens, \$7.95 children 3-11 - call 417-334-6110 to make reservations. Trip has the blessing of Mike Adams and ye. editor.

**EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS** - Eureka Springs & North Arkansas Railway operates a dining train through December 18 - trains leave the historic Eureka Springs depot (M&NA) on Highway 23 North - for reservations, call 501-253-9623.

**RUSK, TEXAS** - March 5,6, 1994 - Texas State Railroad Railfan Weekend - featuring Tremont & Gulf 2-8-2 No. 30 - night photo sessions, runbys, barbecue dinner - cost is \$70 per person, limited to the first 100 paid passengers - sent reservations to TSRR Railfan Weekend, PO Box 19651, Houston TX 77224-9651 or call 713-467-8197 - sponsored by the 610 Historical Foundation and Gulf Coast Chapter NRHS.



### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

by: P. B. Wooldridge

We're all familiar with the Christmas cartoon, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." A "Grinch" almost stole my Christmas back in 1937.

It was December 23, 1937 and a very attractive grandmother appeared in the telegraph office at Lewisville, Arkansas. She paid for a Western Union Christmas Kiddiegram. At the time I never realized the near tragedy that would follow.

The Kiddiegram informed the recipient that Santa Claus would climb down his chimney on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, when I got off duty at 4 p.m., I walked up the hill to the Post Office and mailed the Telegram, not knowing that the ever-efficient Post Office would make a special mail delivery late on that same day, December 23rd.



The next morning, December 24th, I was busy with telegraphing train orders and switch lists. At that time Lewisville had a large yard, consisting of 5 tracks one quarter of a mile long, and there was lots of setting out, picking up and switching.

The local phone rang and a sweet young voice said:

"Operator, my mother is on her way to the station. She's hysterical, so please don't pay any attention to her."

Shortly thereafter, while copying a train order, the grandmother burst into the telegraph office, literally sobbing and screaming:

"Oh! You have ruined my Christmas! My grandson awoke this morning so disappointed that Santa hadn't brought his presents."

Witness to all this was veteran freight Conductor Hamilton whose train was outside, setting out and picking up, and waiting for his train orders. I think he was as embarrassed and shocked as I was.

FORM 19	FORM 3142 BERRYMAN HENWOOD, TRUSTEE St. Louis Southwestern Railway Co.,—Debtor	FORM 19
TRAIN ORDER NO. <u>111</u>		
Pine Bluff Shops, Ark. <u>Jan 29 1942</u>		
To C. & E. <u>Second 26 And Extra 562</u>		
<u>And 569 Coupled North and</u>		
<u>Extra 580 North</u>		
x <u>Row</u> Opp. <u>1255 a</u> M At <u>M<sup>e</sup> rail</u>		
<p><u>Second 26 eng 801 And</u>  <u>Extra 562 And 569 Coupled</u>  <u>North Meet Extra 757</u>  <u>South At Finn</u>  <u>Extra 580 North Meet</u>  <u>Extra 757 South At</u>  <u>Buena Vista</u>  <u>Amc</u></p>		
Conductor, Engineman, Fireman and Flagman must each have a copy of this order.		
Made	Time	Opp.
<u>com</u>	<u>110 a</u>	<u>M<sup>e</sup> rail ridge</u>



**FEBRUARY 1907** - St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern's Little Rock dispatcher's office. Man in left foreground is Mr. W. A. Anderson at the dispatchers table. Anderson was chief dispatcher on the White River Division at Cotter, Arkansas, 1925-27 and Aurora, Missouri 1927-28. He retired in 1928. This office was in the old Southern Land Office Building adjacent to Union Depot. It was dismantled in 1909.

Mike Adams: *"Note the spittoons and litter on the floor. The gal has on enough clothes to make a circus tent!"* (Fred Jukes photo - Mike Adams collection)

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!

UPCOMING CLUB & AREA RAIL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

**DECEMBER 18** - Annual Christmas Party, Wyatt's Cafeteria, North Little Rock, 6 p.m.

**JANUARY 1** - All-day get-together at Twin City Bank, beginning 8:00 a.m. Barton Jennings will show slides of Russia trip.

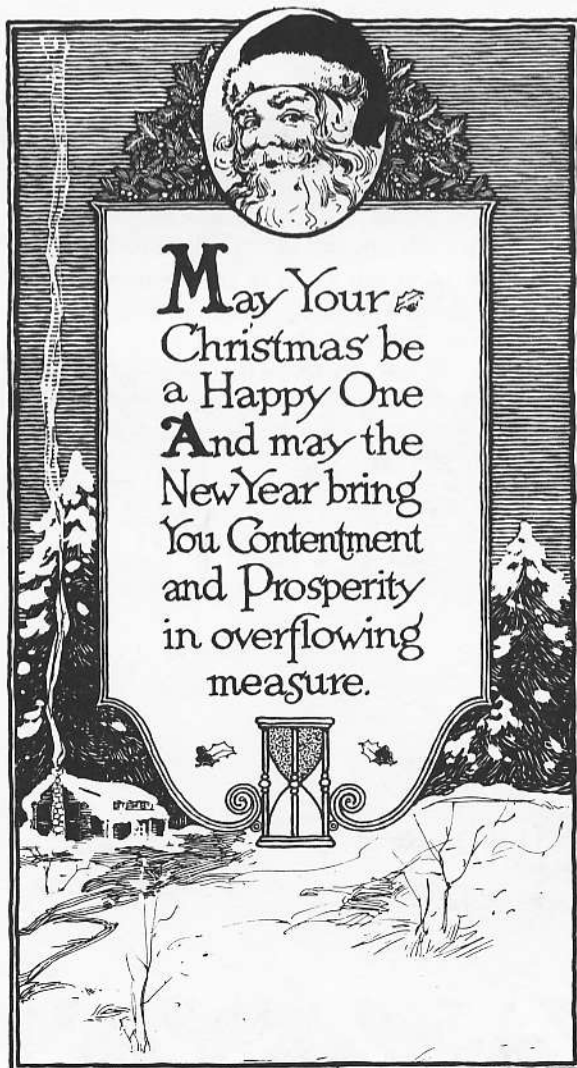
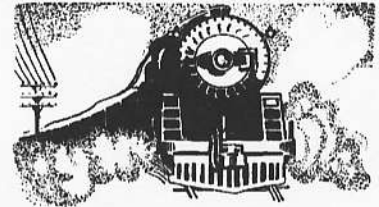
**JANUARY 9** - Regular club meeting, Twin City Bank, North Little Rock, 2 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 13** - Regular club meeting, Twin City Bank, North Little Rock, 2 p.m.

**MARCH 13** - Regular Club meeting, Twin City Bank.

**APRIL 10** - Regular Club meeting, Twin City Bank.

See inside for more detailed information on some of these activities. Please keep me informed on what is going on rail-wise in and around Arkansas so I can put it in the table. Thanks.



The Arkansas Railroad Club is a non-profit organization that meets on the second Sunday of the month. This month will be our **Annual Christmas Party**. It will be held at Wyatt's Cafeteria on JFK in North Little Rock on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, beginning at 6 p.m.. We'll all go through the regular line and meet in a special room.

The **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** is the monthly publication of the Arkansas Railroad Club and is generally mailed in time to be received before the monthly meetings. In order to receive this publication, you must be a member of the Club. Current dues are \$15/year for Arkansas residents and also \$15/year for out-of-state. The **RAILROADER** is mailed to all members automatically. Family memberships are \$20, but only one newsletter sent.

If you would like to join, send your check made out to the "Arkansas Railroad Club" to: ATTN:Treasurer, ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB, P.O. Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119. You may also join the National Railway Historical Society through our Club by paying \$14/year more.

Editor of the **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** is Ken Ziegenbein. Everything having to do with the **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** should be sent to the address below, ATTN:Editor. Please let me know if your address changes, as NEWSLETTERS CANNOT BE FORWARDED.

Arkansas Railroad Club mail should also be sent to the address below..

**ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB  
P. O. BOX 9151  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72119**

Newsletter phone: (501)-758-1340  
(Leave message on recorder if I'm not there)  
24-HR FAX: (501)-753-6830 - indicate To:Arkansas Railroad Club

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**JOIN THE ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB**

Dues are \$15/year per individual or \$20/year for family membership (only one newsletter will be sent to a family unless each member pays the individual \$15 fee). Dues are always due JANUARY 1ST of each year and apply to the calendar year. You may also join the National Historical Railway Society through our club by paying \$14/year more (total payment for both club membership and NRHS membership would be \$29 per year).

Membership entitles you to receive the **ARKANSAS RAILROADER** for the term of your membership. It is published monthly.

RENEWAL     NEW MEMBER     CHANGE OF ADDRESS

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Make your checks out to the "Arkansas Railroad Club" and mail to:

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PO BOX 9151  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72119**