



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER  
N.R.H.S.

# ARKANSAS RAILROADER



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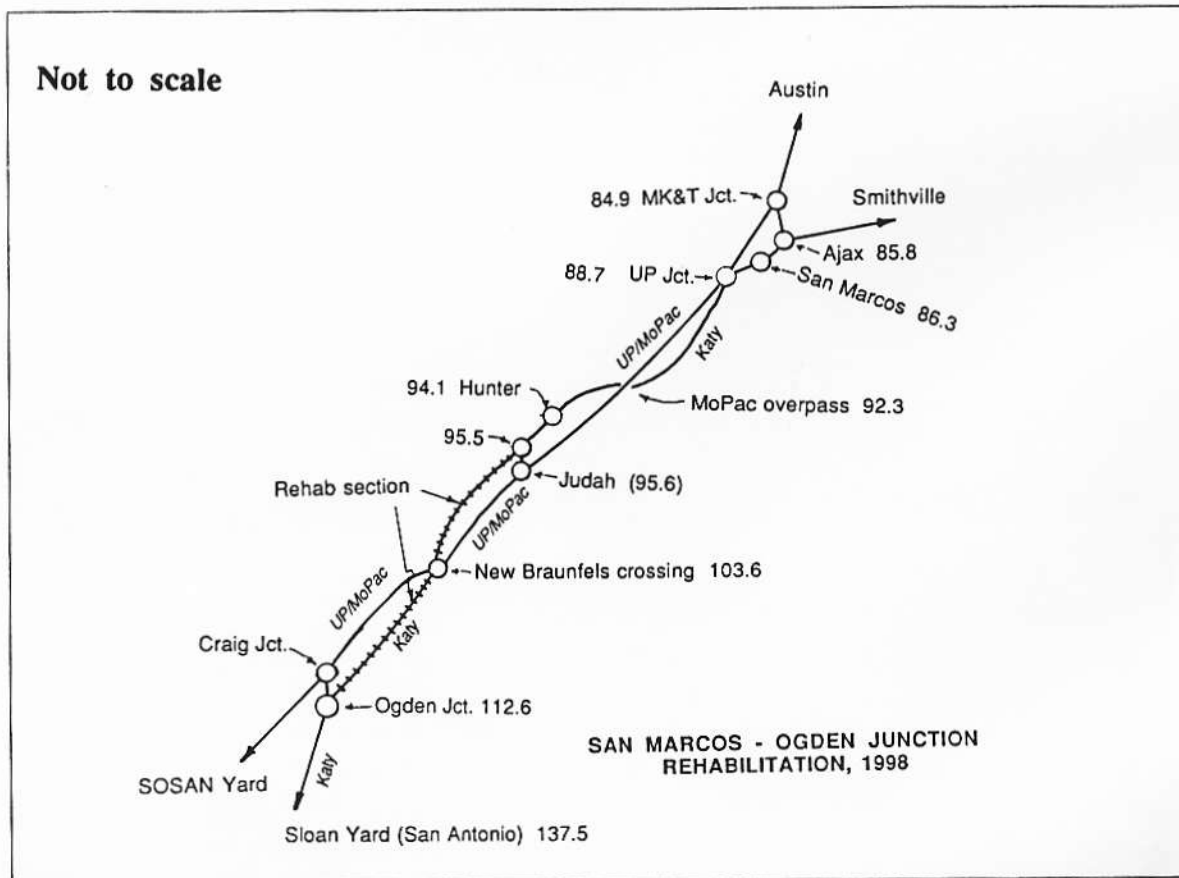
Eureka Springs and North Arkansas Railroad steam engine #201 lets off steam on the trestle at the north end of the line at the wye. (Taken July 18, 1998 by John Jones)

# Re-Birth of the Katy Line into San Antonio

James R. Fair

"Union Pacific Restoring Old Line." So read the headline in the April 3, 1998, issue of the *Austin American-Statesman*, and the "old line" is part of the former Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad ("Katy") that parallels the Union Pacific between Austin and San Antonio. Shortly after the Katy was merged into the Union Pacific in 1988, the UP elected to take some 17 miles of this line out of service and indeed removed the rails at various locations. Now the UP, under pressure from customers and state authorities, plans to re-open the trackage and provide a double-track main line between San Marcos, 30 miles south of Austin, and the Mission City. The cost of this venture was estimated at \$15.7 million. This, of course, was good news to railfans - who hate to see an abandoned track overcome by weeds and other vegetation. Some historical background on this plan seems to be in order at this point of the narrative.

By 1892 the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad had built south from Dallas and construction was being extended toward Houston. But the MK&T was not just interested in a southern terminal at Houston and Galveston. The road wanted an entrance to San Antonio and its connections east, south and west. At Taylor, Texas, the line crossed the International and Great Northern, and an arrangement with that road was made to transfer a through sleeper and a through chair car to the IG&N for the Taylor-San Antonio trip. Meanwhile, the Katy looked toward having its own line into the Mission City, and in December 1892 completed a branch line from Smithville to San Marcos which still left about 50 miles to San Antonio. But San Marcos was on a direct route of the I&GN from Taylor, whereas, the Katy from Taylor to San Marcos was about 35 miles longer. Not a very competitive situation.



As things worked out, the Katy built its own line from San Marcos into San Antonio, paralleling the existing I&GN, and opened the line on May 3, 1901. Thus, at the expense of the longer routing, the Katy could now use its own rails from Kansas City and St. Louis into San Antonio, albeit at the expense of a longer haul. The Katy was still not satisfied with this routing, and began plans for a more direct route. To this end, a line was built from a connection south of Taylor (called Granger) to Austin, 45 miles, completing it on June 15, 1904 and advertising a through sleeper between Dallas and Austin effective June 26. The next move was to make use of the IG&N tracks between Austin and San Marcos, and on December 21, 1905, a trackage rights contract was signed. Service to San Antonio through Austin began on July 1, 1905. (This trackage agreement continued through the last Katy passenger train in 1964, the abandonment of part of the Austin-Granger line in 1976, and the merger of the Katy into the Union Pacific in 1988.)

The Union Pacific had promised the ICC that one economy of the merger would be the elimination of the parallel lines between San Marcos and San Antonio. While the line was shown in service in the UP Timetable

No. 7, October 29, 1989, portions of the line were already out of service as evidenced by the very rusty rails and the removal of the UP crossing frog at New Braunfels. The UP decided to keep the Katy track open for 9.2 miles south of San Marcos (see table), calling it a "second main track" but because of an underpass (under the UP) could not move double-stack trains over it. Further, it has not been maintained well, with many new tie insertions needed, and line bent 112 lb. jointed rail needing attention. The UP has restricted it mostly to local service - primarily to serve Hunter Cement Co. at about mile 95. South of Ogden Junction, mile 112.6, the UP decided to keep the line open and upgrade it to mainline standards, complete with CTC. This was done because of the convenience of Southern Pacific interchange as well as automobile car loading facilities along the Katy. Thus, the gap between mileposts 95.5 and 112.6, 17.1 miles, is the thrust area of the current rehabilitation work.

The press release in April stated that "Union Pacific, which has been struggling to deliver backed up freight, said the restored track would help reduce rail congestion between Fort Worth and San Antonio." The initial effort,

#### AUSTIN - SAN ANTONIO ON THE KATY

	<u>Mile</u>	<u>Comments</u>
AUSTIN .....	55.5	Katy had trackage rights over MoPac, Austin - MK&T Jct.
MK&T Junction .....	84.9	Until early 1980s, a 24-hour train order office was maintained here.
Ajax .....	85.5	Junction of lines from MK&T Jct. and Smithville.
SAN MARCOS.....	86.3	A maintenance office and storage facility continues in operation at this location.
UP Junction.....	88.7	Junction where freights to/from Austin and Smithville converge or diverge.
[MoPac Overpass] .....	92.3	Katy tracks pass underneath those of the UP/MoPac. Not enough clearance for double stacks.
Hunter (TXI).....	94.1	Connection to cement plant
UP Connection .....	95.5	Connecting track to UP/MoPac. South end of "two main tracks." North end of rehabilitation. On UP, connection station is Judah.
NEW BRAUNFELS.....	103.3	Site completely clear of evidence of former depot
UP/MoPac Crossing .....	103.6	Tracks removed on Katy, signals removed, diamond removed but nearby
WRP (Dittlinger).....	106.7	Former connection with cement and lime plants north near UP/MoPac line
OGDEN JUNCTION.....	112.6	Connecting line from UP/MoPac at Davis Jct. From here to Sloan Yard there has been continuous service. South end of rehabilitation is at Ogden Jct.
Fratt .....	124.8	
Remount .....	127.1	In 1946, block signals from here to San Antonio. In 1998, CTC south of Ogden Jct.
Travis.....	130.3	
SLOAN YARD .....	137.5	
[San Antonio depot].....	138.5	At Durango and S. Flores Sts. Acclaimed for its beauty. Razed in late 1970s.

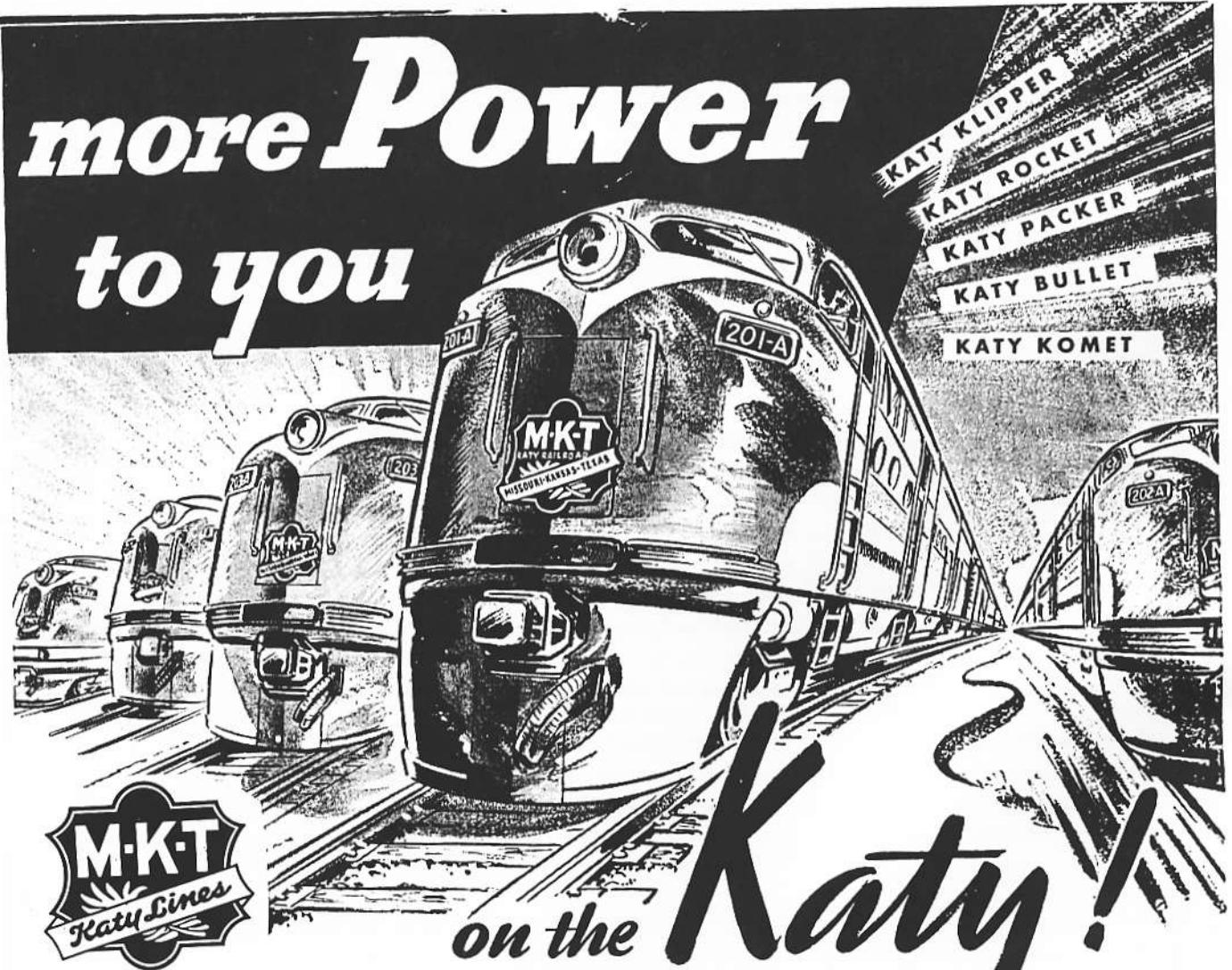
Notes: (1) Rehabilitation program in 1998 extends from milepost 95.5 to milepost 112.6 = 17.1 miles.  
 (2) Mileposts according to UP after 1988 merger. Original Katy mileposts: 900 + those shown

with a target completion in October, calls for rebuilding 8 bridges, installing CTC, upgrading 41 highway crossings, insertion of cross-ties and ballast, and aligning the 112 lb. jointed rails. In 1999, welded rail is to be installed, and two sidings for storing hopper cars are to be added. Ultimately there will again be two serviceable tracks between San Marcos and San Antonio.

A part of this plan is based on the movement of coal trains on the old Katy south of Fort Worth. One train operates into LaGrange, on the line to Houston (which has now been severed at Sealy, Texas, where connections are made with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe), and the

other into San Antonio. Because of steep grades at Austin, this latter train operates through Smithville, moving onto the UP tracks just south of San Marcos. Presumably this train can use the rehabilitated line. Rock trains out of the New Braunfels vicinity, formerly headed for Houston via Smithville, may use the new line south to the old SP connection at San Antonio. There will be plenty of use of the re-opened line, despite its clearance limitations.

Now we can look forward to the opening of the old Katy line later in 1998. Meanwhile, progress will be checked, as indicated in the accompanying pictures.



*For Fast, Dependable Freight Deliveries*

1947

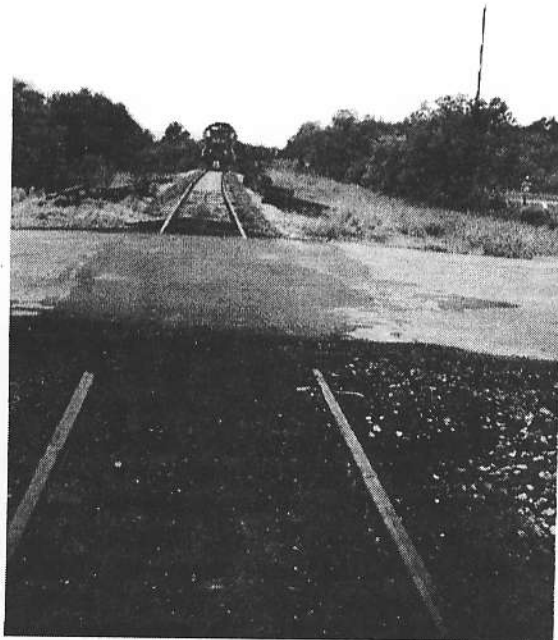
Freights high-balling down the right-of-way at almost passenger speeds! Your merchandise at destination many precious hours ahead of time! Fast, courteous, trouble-free handling of all your transportation needs to, from, and through the main traffic lane of the booming Southwest!

All these are yours with the precision rail transportation now offered by the Southwest's home-town railroad. Five crack Katy Freights, operating on stepped-up daily schedules, afford dependable, on-time service between St. Louis, Kansas City and important points in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, with extensive connecting service at terminals.

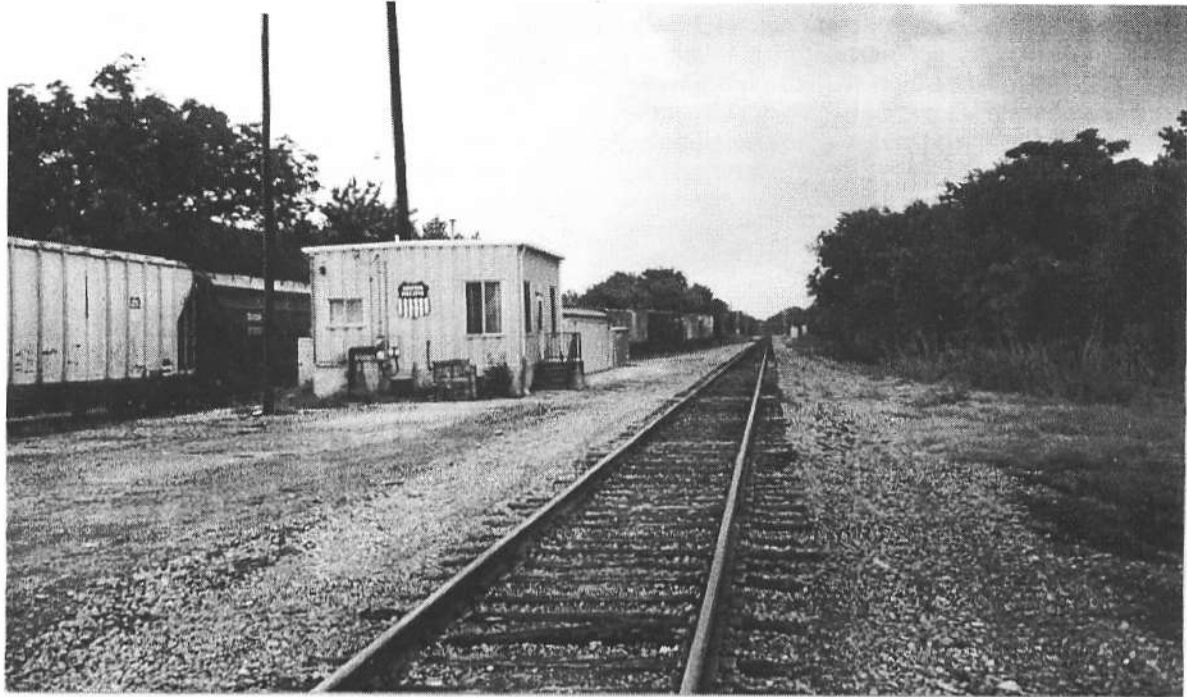




The Missouri-Kansas-Texas ("Katy") *Texas Special* stops at the Southern Pacific depot in Austin, Texas in 1962. Express is loaded, but very few passengers entrain. The tracks crossed Austin in the middle of Third Street. On the east side of Congress Avenue, the tracks were owned by the Southern Pacific. On the west side, ownership was Missouri Pacific. The Katy had trackage rights for its passenger trains. (*James Hickey photo, James Fair collection*)



Solms Road crossing at MP 107, about 3.5 miles south of the New Braunfels, Texas crossover. Work train is blocked by the heavy asphalt cover of the crossing. Some work in progress on the tracks and roadbed. Ex-SP No. 9712 was very dead at the time the picture was taken on Friday morning, August 7, 1998. (*James Fair photo*)



San Marcos, MP 86.3, where the maintenance building is on the site of the old Katy passenger depot. Tracks are old Katy, 112 lb and jointed, and pointing toward Ajax, a half-mile ahead. Photo on March 22, 1998, before announcement of the rehabilitation project.



Example of rehabilitation work. At MP 98.6 a wooden trestle is being replaced. View toward the south, July 4, 1998.

## 1998 OFFICERS/POSITIONS OF THE ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB

PRESIDENT - Leonard L. Thalmueller, 21 Hanover Dr, Little Rock AR 72209-2159 (501-562-8231)  
VICE-PRESIDENT - John Hodkin, Jr., 506 Gordon St, N Little Rock AR 72117 (501-945-2128)  
TREASURER - Walter B. Walker, 8423 Linda Ln, Little Rock AR 72227-5983 (501-225-0826)  
SECRETARY - Carole Sue Schafer, 103 Thayer St, Little Rock AR 72205-5951 (501-371-0034)  
EDITOR - Ken Ziegenbein, 1023 Claycut Cir, N Little Rock AR 72116-3728 (501-758-1340)  
NRHS DIRECTOR - Jim Bennett, 1002 South Leslie St, Stuttgart AR 72160 (870)-673-6753)  
PHOTOGRAPHER - John C. Jones, 117 Cottonwood, Sherwood AR 72120-4011 (501-835-3729)  
TRIP ADVERTISING - David P. Hoge, 3721 Idlewild, N Little Rock AR 72116 (501-771-1025)  
BOARD '98 - Robin Thomas, 10908 Rivercrest Dr #26, Little Rock AR 72212-1412  
BOARD '99 - Stanley Wozencraft, 108 N Palm, Little Rock AR 72205 (501-664-3301)  
BOARD '00 - Gene Hull, 3507 E Washington #31, North Little Rock AR 72114-6455 (501-945-7386)  
BOARD '01 - Tom Shook, 1716 Alberta Dr. Little Rock AR 72227-3902 (501-225-8955)  
BOARD '02 - Bill Bailey, 8318 Reymere Dr, Little Rock AR 72227-3944 (501-224-6828)

## NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM

The next meeting of the Arkansas Railroad Club will be on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 at 2 p.m. at the regular location - the Mercantile Bank on Main Street in North Little Rock. There will be a program but it hasn't been decided at press time. Refreshments will be served.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES - I have been pretty flexible on deadlines for the *Railroader*. However, I need to set a firm deadline for each newsletter. From now on, unless specifically stated otherwise, the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month will be the deadline for the next month's edition (i.e., December deadline will be November 15). Thanks.

NOVEMBER EXCURSION - We've rented the old combine for a trip on the A&M between Van Buren and Winslow (and return) for Saturday, November 14. This was to be the last day of passenger operation by the A&M Railroad on the former Frisco line. However, on October 16 the A&M announced that it would run the excursions for another year. Cost will be \$40, including the bus trip from Little Rock to Van Buren and return. Limited seats available. The bus will leave at 7 a.m. or shortly thereafter from the parking lot of the Mercantile Bank on Main Street in North Little Rock, returning after 4 or 5 p.m. If interested, send \$40 to the Arkansas Railroad Club - Trip, PO Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119. Even though this will no longer be a "final" run, we should have a good time anyway. After all, who doesn't enjoy a train ride?

OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR 1999 - Here are the nominees for the chapter's 1999 officers: President - Leonard Thalmueller; Vice-President - John Hodkin, Jr.; - Treasurer - Walter Walker; Secretary - Carole Sue Schafer; Board of Directors for 2002 - Robin Thomas. Other positions in the club: Editor - Ken Ziegenbein; NRHS Director - ?; Photographer - John Jones; Advertising - David P. Hoge.

CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held Sunday, December 6 at the University Park Adult Leisure Center, 6401 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Little Rock. Time will be 6 p.m. and the cost will be \$15 per person, payable in advance. There will be a buffet with 2 meats and several vegetable choices. This is always a well attended club function. If you plan on coming, send your \$15 check made out to the Arkansas Railroad Club and mail to our address: PO Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119. (See form enclosed)

MEMBER NEWS - GENE HULL recently had a small mini-stroke, called a TIA. After being examined for a full day, nothing more serious was found, except he was told to lower his cholesterol levels. Our president, LEONARD L. THALMUELLER, had to go back to the hospital because of an infection in his leg. He had bypass surgery in September. No change was reported on BILL CHURCH. Thanks to Naomi Hull for all this information.

**SHORTLINE BOOK REPRINT** - Gene Hull's *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas* book will be reprinted soon and only cost \$24.95. One thousand copies will be printed. We'll let you know when it's available.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** BILL B. BAILEY (11/03); HAROLD D. DUDLEY (11/03); ROBERT WRIGHT (11/04); PHILIP L. MOSELEY (11/05); LLOYD A. NEAL (11/08); WINFRED J. VICK (11/08); LEONARD TILLMAN WALKER (11/09); NICK MACCHIAROLO (11/11); SILVERIO R. MARTINEZ (11/12); WILLIAM E. LUTTRELL (11/13); PHILLIP H. SCHUETH (11/13); JERRY NUNN (11/17); ROGER K. CHISHOLM (11/17); LOWELL E. SALE (11/18); JOHN E. ADAMS (11/18); JIM LYNCH (11/18); MARION P. HELTON (11/20); CHARLES V. STEVENS (11/20); CARL E. BARNES (11/21); RAYMOND F. MAYER, M.D. (11/22); BARTON JENNINGS (11/22); JAMES R. BUCKNER (11/26); MIKE MASON (11/26); PAUL L. HOGE (11/28); PHILLIP B. BUSH II (11/30); DR. EDWARD A. METZ (11/30).

**JUNE 1999 NRHS CONVENTION NEWS** - Union Pacific announced that it will bring both the 844 and 3985 steam engines to the 1999 NRHS convention in Sacramento, California. It will also assist in moving three non-UP engines to the California State Railroad Museum. Several trips are planned during the convention, most using steam. Priority ticket sales will be reserved to those who pre-register for the convention. To pre-register, send \$20 to Registration, 1999 NRHS and R&LHS National Convention, PO Box 8289, San Jose CA 95155-8289. You must be an NRHS member to pre-register. The convention is hosted by the Central Coast Chapter and Pacific Coast Chapter, NRHS (see flyer elsewhere).

**NEW WEB ADDRESS** - I've upgraded my web address, where I post the *Arkansas Railroader* each month, along with lots of other things, such as weather forecasts, radars and satellite pictures, various newspapers, etc. I now have 20 mb of disk space, so I can post railroad pictures. The address is:

<http://www.trainweather.com>

My email address (which is also the Arkansas Railroad Club's email) is: [ken.z.rw@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ken.z.rw@ix.netcom.com). This hasn't changed.

**KIAMICHI RAILROAD SPECIAL TRIP** will be run over the weekend of December 5 & 6 over its' entire line in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas (December 6 is also our annual Christmas party). This trip will be sponsored by one of our members, Bart Jennings. For more details, see the *Excursions* section.

### WANTED : FOR SALE OR TRADE

The following is for those who want to find certain railroad-related items, information, or want to sell or trade such items with other railfans. We reserve the right to refuse listings if deemed inappropriate. The Arkansas Railroad Club is not responsible for misleading ads.

**FOR SALE** - The Roanoke Chapter NRHS is selling a CD with the sounds recorded by O. Winston Link of Norfolk & Western steam power in the 1950s. The CD includes a 28-page booklet describing the sounds. Cost is \$20 plus \$5 postage. The

chapter is also selling a videotape about Link's photography called "Trains That Passed In The Night" for \$39.95 plus \$6 postage. Send orders to: Roanoke Chapter NRHS, Gift Shop, PO Box 13222, Roanoke VA 24032-1322.

**WANTED** - Standard gauge hand car. Advise price, condition and location. Peter Smykla, PO Box 1892, Pine Bluff AR 71613 or call 870-535-4724.

**FOR SALE** - The Arkansas Railroad Club's hardbound, 120-page book called

*Railroad Stations and Trains through Arkansas and the Southwest* is ready for mailing. It was written by Clifton Hull with help from Tom Shook, among other club members. Kevin EuDaly of White River Productions did the graphic design and artwork. You can order from White River Productions, 24632 Anchor Ave, Bucklin MO 64631. Cost is \$29.95 plus \$4.50 postage and handling (total of \$34.45 if you're having it mailed). MasterCard or Visa accepted. You can call White River Productions at 816-695-4433.



**FOR SALE** - James R. Fair's new book *The Louisiana & Arkansas Railway*. This 176-page clothbound book has 80 black and white illustrations and covers the Louisiana & Arkansas Railway from its beginning to the modern era. YOU CAN NOW ORDER DIRECTLY FROM MR. FAIR. He'll even autograph it for you. Cost directly from him is only \$34. His address is: James R. Fair, 2804 Northwood Rd, Austin, TX 78703-

1630. Call 512-451-6194 or 512-471-3689. James Fair is and has been an Arkansas Railroad Club member for years.

**WANTED** - Oral history, railroad documents, railroad worker's housing, newspaper clippings, photographs of segregated stations or Jim Crow cars, or any other items relating to the topic of blacks and the railroads. This information will be

used in a upcoming book on African Americans and the railroads. If you can help, write to Theodore Kornweibel, Jr., Professor, 6334 Lake Decatur Avenue, San Diego CA 92119 or call 619-461-0098. (I sent him the oral history I did of a former MoPac porter in Little Rock back in 1991 - that was printed in the *Railroader* at that time).

## RAILROAD ABANDONMENT PROPOSALS

The address of the Surface Transportation Board is: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, Washington DC 20423. The STB phone number for abandonment procedures (Office of Public Services) is: 202-565-1592. If you contact them, it would be handy to use the Docket Numbers. Their Web address is: <http://www.stb.dot.gov> if you'd like the complete listings.

These abandonment proposals have been printed in the Federal Register or have come directly from the Surface Transportation Board. They will go in effect unless one of the following occurs: 1) an offer of financial assistance is received; 2) a request for public use of the land is received (for instance, rails-to-trails); 3) petitions to reopen the case is filed. Railroads, before they can file these "notices of exemption under CFR 1152 Subpart F," must certify that 1) no local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; 2) any overhead traffic can be routed over other lines; 3) no formal complaint filed by a user is pending and; 4) environmental reports, historic reports, transmittal letter, newspaper publication, and notice to governmental agencies have been met. Even though approval is granted for the railroads to abandon, it may be months or years before track is actually taken up.

**MICHIGAN - GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD INC.** - To abandon a portion of line known as the Romeo Subdivision extending from m.p. 19.5 near Washington Station in Washington, Michigan to m.p. 37.7 near Pontiac Station in Pontiac, Michigan, a distance of 18.2 miles. Stations included are: Washington, Rochester, and Auburn Heights. Comments due by October 23, 1998. (STB Docket No. AB-31, Sub No. 33, decided September 21, served September 28, 1998)

**WISCONSIN - UNION PACIFIC** - To abandon 2.0 miles on the Clyman Branch from the end of the line at m.p. 110.0 to m.p. 112.0 near Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. Effective November 7, 1998. (STB Docket No. AB-33, Sub No. 126X, decided October 1, served October 8, 1998)

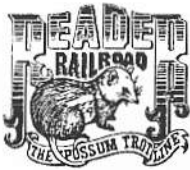
## ARKANSAS RAIL NEWS

### 100 PERCENT ON TIME

*(North Little Rock)* - The North Little Rock terminal departed originating trains 100 percent on time for most of September, the best record among major terminals.

### NEW INTERMODAL TERMINAL

*(Crossett)* - A new intermodal terminal is being built at Crossett, where a Georgia-Pacific paper products mill is located along the Arkansas & Louisiana Missouri Railroad. The private facility will serve GP's tissue mill. Empty cars will come from Dallas. *(Journal of Commerce, September 30)*



### READER RAILROAD EQUIPMENT

According to the Bart Jennings, the equipment from the Reader Railroad is being moved to Dandanelle on the D&R to keep the equipment on rail. UP received permission to scrap the line from Camden to Gurdon, and that would be the only link the Reader had with the rail system, so the move needs to be made soon. (What would happen to the remaining Reader track? What would happen to the movie contracts the Reader has?)

## GENERAL RAIL NEWS

### SIX KILLED BY TRAIN

(North of Brownsville, Texas) - Six illegal immigrants, sleeping on Union Pacific tracks about 60 miles north of Brownsville, Texas, were hit and instantly killed by a UP freight on October 12. The train crew saw some debris on the tracks and the next second they saw heads raise up and the six people were killed immediately. Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Tela Mange said the victims likely slept on the tracks in the belief they would be safe from snakes.

### 1,000th RAIL-TRAIL OPENED

(Greene, Rhode Island) - On October 19, 1998, the 1,000th rail-trail and 10,000th rail-trail mile was opened near Greene, Rhode Island. The new trail will open between Hartford and Providence. These trails are over abandoned railroads with the option of rails once again being placed there. It's called "rail-banking." Also, these trails have become increasingly popular with thousands using them every year for recreational purposes. (PRNewswire, October 13)

### NATIONWIDE RAILS-TO-TRAILS LAWSUIT

A nationwide class-action lawsuit was filed October 7 against the federal government to force payment to landowners when abandoned rail lines are given to the Rails to Trails Conservancy. The suit was filed by American Farm Bureau Federation.

### ANOTHER MERGER DECISION

The Surface Transportation Board will make still another decision on a major rail merger - between IC and CN - by March 15, 1999.

### DENIES ABANDONMENT

(Texas) - The Surface Transportation Board on October 6 **denied** the abandonment request of the South Orient Railroad that runs between San Angelo and Presidio, Texas (former Santa Fe line). The STB said it would allow the SOR to discontinue its service over the line, but because of NAFTA, wanted to preserve the line in case it was needed in the future. The line runs 296 miles.

Another abandonment request was vacated in Texas on October 2nd when UP decided to keep the line between Troup and Whitehouse, Texas.

### RAILROADS MUST CHANGE

STB Chairman Linda Morgan said in a late September forum near Houston that railroads must change their corporate image and work to regain the trust of their customers, especially when it comes to communication. She said that UP's recent decentralization of its operations was a good sign. UP Chairman Dick Davidson said the UP has improved drastically since last year. Some businesses, however, said that UP should not compare itself with 1997 since 1997 was an abysmal year. Instead, they should compare themselves with the second quarter of 1995. (Houston Chronicle, September 30 via Dan Barr)

### GRAND CENTRAL REMAKE

New York's famous 85-year old Grand Central Terminal had an unveiling on October 1 after a \$200 million refurbishing. The station was redone to look like it did in 1913 when it opened. There are now 24 restaurants and businesses in the building, and the false ceiling has been removed so one can see the autumn night sky-painted original high ceiling. Nearly half a million people still go through this station each day. (USA Today, September 25 via Dan Barr)

### RAILROAD FACTS

The Association of American Railroads latest facts about railroads in Arkansas:

- 1) Number of railroad - 23
- 2) Miles of track operated - 2,664
- 3) Total carloads - 2,351,242
- 4) Total tons carried - 131,566,195
- 5) Rail employees living in state - 4,557
- 6) Total wages of rail employees - \$231,222,000
- 7) Average wages/fringe benefits - \$69,800
- 8) Railroad retirees in state - 10,194
- 9) Tons originating in state - 16,696,492
- 10) Tons terminating in state - 27,643,166

Nationwide, the statistics are as follows:

- 1) Number of railroads - 553
- 2) Miles of track operated - 147,210
- 3) Total carloads - 26,636,849
- 4) Total tons carried - 1,843,354,708
- 5) Rail employees in US - 280,585
- 6) Total wages of rail employees - \$13,818,180,000
- 7) Average wages/fringe benefits - \$67,768
- 8) Railroad retirees in US - 702,931
- 9) Tons carried in US - 1,641,211,048

#### CANADIAN PACIFIC VACUUMS TRACK

As part of an effort to reduce wildlife kills in national parks in Canada, the CN Railroad invested in the first vacuum machine in Canada to pick up grain along the tracks. This grain attracts hundreds of wildlife annually. CN spent \$500,000 on the machine. (AAR)

*One locomotive moves a ton of freight almost 300 miles on one gallon of fuel, while a truck moves a ton only about 100 miles per gallon. If just 10 percent of the freight moving by highway were diverted to rail, the nation could save 200 million gallons of fuel a year.* (Association of American Railroads)

#### UNION PACIFIC CORP MOVE?

After the sale by UP of Overnight Transportation and Skyway Freight Systems early in 1999, a UP spokesman says that the company might consider moving its headquarters from Dallas to Omaha. (UP's rail operations are already headquartered there). UP Corp had its headquarters in New York for decades, then in 1987 moved them to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and in April 1998 moved to Dallas. (St Louis Post-Dispatch)

#### L&NW DEPOT RAZED

(Homer, Louisiana) - Member Philip Moseley and others said that in early October, he noticed that the L&NW demolished and cleared the site of their large two-story office building in Homer. This was done sometime after July 1998.

You remember last month that they tore down their depot in Magnolia.

#### RAIL UNION MERGER OFF

Nearly 10 months after the United Transportation Union and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers began talking merger, the labor groups ended their discussions in early October stating that there were too many differences (and stubborn personalities).

#### CAT RIDES BART

(Castro Valley, California) - A six-month old kitten, Lizbeth, walked about 8 blocks to a BART transit station in early October, got on one of the BART trains and rode 55 miles before finally being returned to her house. She had just been spayed when she escaped the yard she was in, according to her master, Nadine Meyer. (Perhaps she was trying for one last fling??) BART operators called area veterinarian offices and finally connected with the one who knew who Lizbeth's owner was. The cat escaped on Friday and was returned to her owners the next Tuesday.

#### LOTS OF COAL TRAINS

Union Pacific loaded its 75,000th coal train in late September in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Averaging nearly 26 loaded coal trains a day from the area, UP will haul about 120 million tons of coal this year. That tonnage is expected to double by 2008. UP and BNSF combined to run a record 63 coal trains out of the Basin in one

day on Wednesday, September 30. (UP Update)

#### TALK OF ARIZONA LIGHT-RAIL

(Tempe, Arizona) - In mid-July, about 70 people gathered in Tempe to discuss mass transit between Tempe and Phoenix. The entire light-rail project would cost \$390 million, but backers say it would be worth it since building new freeways would cost much more. Newspapers have endorsed the idea. (The Arizona Republic, July 17, via Jim Johnson)

#### OSAGE RAILWAY RENOVATION

(Barnsdall, Oklahoma) - The Online Rail Service and Sunbelt Railroad Historical Trust are working to restore the old rail line between Tulsa, Barnsdall, Avant, Skiatook and Turley, Oklahoma for use in freight and passenger service. Sunbelt said it could use any volunteer help in restoring the line. You can call the Sunbelt Railroad Museum at 918-584-3777 if interested. (Tulsa World, August 4, 1998 via Bob Oswald)

#### UP/NS ASKS FOR YOUR HELP

If you notice an unusual or suspicious activity on UP or NS trains or property, such as an open loaded railcar, truck trailer or container, vandalized track or signals, or suspicious individuals on the railroad's property, call: **Union Pacific** (1-888-UPRRRCOP (877-7267)); **Norfolk Southern** (800-453-2530).

## AMTRAK NEWS

#### OKLAHOMA SERVICE

Amtrak is still supposed to begin serving Oklahoma in the spring of 1999, probably

on the line between Fort Worth, Oklahoma City and Kansas (the old *Texas Chief* line). The possibility of running to Tulsa also was

mentioned. However, a lot of track work needs to be done on the Tulsa line, and Senator Nickles said that for the short term,



only the old Santa Fe route would be used.

#### PASSENGER LOST

An Amtrak passenger who let himself off the *Southwest Chief* on September 28 after an unscheduled stop about 1 a.m. was found O.K. Roland Daniels got off near Peach Springs, Arizona after the train stopped so the engineer could reboot the engine's computer. Daniels thought the train was at the regular stop of Kingman, Arizona. The train then left him in the darkness of the Arizona desert. BNSF dispatchers asked freight train crews to look out for the man near milepost 671.5, where the train stopped, after he turned up missing at Kingman. Daniels was found safe and sound near the tracks after a five-hour air and ground search by the Mojave County sheriff's office.

#### SERVICE/INCOME JUMPS

Since the *Texas Eagle* began hauling 5-13

express cars on each of its trains, the service has increased its revenues and may expand to running 6 days a week soon. Companies hauling freight in these express cars include H. J. Heinz, Campbell, and Ocean Spray. Also hauled are soups (Campbell, Furr's, Hy-Top, Heinz and Kroger), dog food (Ol' Roy), cat food (9-Lives), Lone Star beer, baby food (Earth's Best), ketchup, tuna (Star-Kist) and spaghetti sauce (Prego). They hauled 215 cars to Dallas in September alone. One express car hauls as much as three semi-trucks. Although Union Pacific originally tried to stop Amtrak from doing this much express business, it has since agreed to cooperate. BNSF all along said it didn't view this express as competition for them, saying Amtrak is targeting only shipments that would have gone by truck anyway. BNSF said compared with their hundreds of train a day carrying 100-plus cars, Amtrak's relatively few express shipments

can't hurt them. (*Fort Worth Star Telegram, October 5, 1998*)

#### DAVID LETTERMAN STALKER DEAD

(*Hotchkiss, Colorado*) - Margaret Mary Ray, 46, who was arrested in 1988 for stalking TV host David Letterman, killed herself in early October by kneeling in front of an oncoming freight train in Colorado. "This lady just walked out, knelt and leaned over the track, and the train couldn't stop," County Sheriff Bill Blair said. (*St Louis Post-Dispatch, October 6, 1998*)

#### ARKADELPHIA DEPOT RENOVATION

The Arkadelphia depot on the *Texas Eagle* route has been donated to the city by its present owner and renovations may begin in 60-90 days. (*Bill Pollard*)

## EXCURSIONS/SHOWS/EVENTS OF OTHER CLUBS

**SOUTH CAROLINA. GEORGIA** - November 14, 15 - The Greenville Chapter NRHS, Emerald City Specials, PO Box 5481, Greenville SC 29606 is operating two Amtrak Superliner roundtrips over rare mileage between Greenville and Atlanta (November 14) and Greenville and Savannah (November 15). Coach tickets are \$89 each. Call 1-864-322-8956 for details.

**ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS** - December 5 & 6, 1998 - A Kiamichi Railroad Rare-Mileage Excursion will be run from Ashdown, Arkansas to Hugo - Antlers - Hugo, Oklahoma December 5 and from Hugo - Durant - Hugo, Oklahoma - Paris, Texas - Hugo on December 6. It will cover about 200 miles of former Frisco track. Ticket sales will benefit the hospital auxiliary in Hugo, the Hugo Heritage Railroad, and the Southern Appalachia Railroad Museum. The Frisco Depot and Harvey House Restaurant will be open in Hugo that weekend.

Trip times: December 5 - Lv. Ashdown 9:00 a.m., Ar. Hugo 3:30 p.m., Ar. Antlers

4:30 p.m., Ar. Hugo 6:00 p.m.; December 6 - Lv. Hugo 8:00 a.m., Ar. Durant 10:30 a.m., Ar. Hugo 1:00 p.m., Ar. Paris 3:00 p.m., Ar. Hugo 6:00 p.m. A bus will transport passengers from Hugo to Ashdown on December 5.

Prices: 2-day adult ticket is \$145; 1-day adult ticket December 5 is \$85; 1-day adult ticket December 6 is \$75. Sandwich lunches will be provided. Send checks to: Kiamichi Special/SARM, c/o Barton Jennings, PO Box 32424, Knoxville TN 37930-2424.

**OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE** - November 21, 22; December 19,20 - Twelve mile roundtrip aboard the "Secret City Scenic" train out of East Tennessee Technology Park near Oak Ridge. Train will be pulled by Alco diesels. Departs at various times during the day. Cost is \$10 adults. Sponsored by Southern Appalachia Railway Museum, PO Box 5870, Knoxville TN 37928, 423-241-2140.

**MICHIGAN AND ELSEWHERE** -

Various times of year - The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the NRHS presents a series of historic rail and rail-related journeys this summer and fall. For a brochure, write to them at: Bluewater Michigan Chapter, PO Box 296, Royal Oak MI 48068-02966 or call 248-541-1000 M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WORLDWIDE TRIPS** - Various times of year - Trains Unlimited Tours is offering rail tours across the world, anywhere from San Diego and Cumbres, to Alaska, South America and Siberia. For a brochure and pricing, write to Trains Unlimited Tours, PO Box 1997, Portola CA 96122 or call 530-836-1748.

**CALICO ROCK, ARKANSAS** - White River Railroad runs most days of the year through scenic north Arkansas along the former Missouri Pacific line. Shopping stops are done at various locations. Prices are \$23.50 adults, \$17.50 child, \$22.50 seniors, \$35 for dome car for everyone. Call 800-305-6527 or 870-499-5700.



## Events

### Sesquicentennial

California's 150th birthday celebration is a three year celebration that highlights the state's rich history in a variety of areas, including major contributions by the railroads. The third week of June 1999 has been designated as the period to celebrate the railroads of the state. The NRHS and R&LHS National Convention is one of two official railroad events.

### Excursions

The following excursions are currently planned:

- ◆ Steam doubleheader at the base of 14,162 foot Mount Shasta on the McCloud River Railroad.
- ◆ From Sacramento to Richmond, located in the San Francisco Bay Area, via scenic Franklin Canyon over the BNSF, with steam "if available".
- ◆ Two full day trips through the Sierra Nevada Range on the UP.
- ◆ Western Railway Museum. Home of over 100 trolleys, interurbans, electric locomotives, diesel locomotives and steam locomotives. Ride in an interurban at 40+ M.P.H. on the 4 miles of the restored Sacramento Northern.
- ◆ Ride on some of the restored PCC trolley cars in San Francisco.
- ◆ A Sacramento-San Francisco Bay Area loop.
- ◆ Steam on the Yolo Short Line.

### Night Photo Session

A night photo session organized by noted rail photographer Mike Del Vecchio is planned.

### Meetings, Seminars, & Banquet

There will be the traditional day of meetings and seminars followed by the banquet. The seminars will be based around the history and future of railroading in the Golden State. The guest speaker for the banquet will be Jim Larson, recently retired Amtrak Assistant Vice President-Operations.

### Local Events

Local tours and excursions of the Sacramento area will be featured.

### Railfair

The California State Rail Museum, as an official event of the Sesquicentennial celebration, is staging a major Railfair similar in nature to the fairs which the museum held in 1981 and 1991.

### Additional Information

#### Web Site

For up to date information on the convention visit our web site at [www.goldenstaterails.com](http://www.goldenstaterails.com)

#### Registration Package

The registration package will have the information needed to sign up for the convention activities. It will be mailed shortly after January 31, 1999 to the members who pre-registered and two weeks later to the members who have not pre-registered.

#### Pre-Registration

Pre-registering discounts the registration fee to \$20 and enables you to receive the registration package prior to members who have not pre-registered. Pre-registration ends on January 31, 1999. After that date, the full \$25 registration fee will be required. Only one pre-registration is needed per family.

#### Non Pre-Registration Option

You do not have to pre-register to obtain a registration package. But, the registration package will not be mailed till two weeks after the it has been mailed to the members who have pre-registered.

#### Special Note

The events described above are currently being planned. These events are still tentative and subject to the volatile pressures of the current mergers and consolidations underway in the West as well as any other unforeseen event. The NRHS, R&LHS, Central Coast Chapter, NRHS, and the Pacific Coast Chapter, R&LHS do not guarantee that the above events will in fact occur.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_  
(You must be a Member of the NRHS or R&LHS to pre-register.)

Registration is \$20 until January 31, 1999, and \$25 thereafter. Only one registration per family is required. We accept checks, money orders, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. Make checks or money orders payable to Central Coast Railway Club.

Credit Card Information

Circle Credit Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on the credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Use Only: Auth #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you don't want to pre-register, but want the registration package. It will be mailed 2 weeks after it is sent to those who pre-register.

Mail pre-registration form to:  
Registration  
1999 NRHS and R&LHS National Convention  
PO Box 8289  
San Jose, CA 95155-8289



You are cordially invited to the  
1999 NRHS and R&LHS National Convention

in  
Sacramento, California  
from

June 21 to June 26, 1999

Hosted by  
the Central Coast Chapter, NRHS  
&  
the Pacific Coast Chapter, R&LHS



ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

[ ] Membership renewal [ ] New Member [ ] Change of Address

Send membership renewal, application, change of address, etc. to:

Arkansas Railroad Club

PO Box 9151

North Little Rock AR 72119

501-758-1340 (phone/fax)

e-mail: ken.z.rw@ix.netcom.com

Web address: http://www.trainweather.com



Your birthday (optional - no year needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (init) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail and/or Web address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$20.00 per year, Arkansas Railroad Club only; \$37.00 per year if you join or renew National Railway Historical Society membership through our Club. Dues are payable/due by January 1 of each year. If we don't have your dues by March 1, you will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Membership in the Arkansas Railroad Club entitles you to a membership card and the monthly ARKANSAS RAILROADER newsletter. Meetings are held monthly, except December, on the second Sunday of the month. We usually meet at 2 p.m. in the Mercantile Bank main building on Main Street in North Little Rock, just north of the Arkansas River. Interesting programs are presented each month and refreshments (cookies, sandwiches) are served. We are a non-profit organization and member of the NRHS. Officers are listed in each newsletter.

The Arkansas Railroad Club's 1999 calendar consists of 14 B&W photos of trains in Arkansas over the years - from modern locomotives to past steam. There's one photo for each month, plus a front and back cover photo.

Railroads included are: Ashley, Drew & Northern, Southern Pacific, Missouri Pacific, Kansas City Southern, Arkansas Midland, Louisiana & Northwest, BNSF, Rock Island, Warren & Saline River, Union Pacific, Amtrak, and the Arkansas & Missouri. Plus, there's a railroad map of Arkansas in the back of the calendar. Day of month numbers are large, and the calendar includes Arkansas Railroad Club member's birthdays.

LAST YEAR'S CALENDAR SOLD OUT, so order your 1999 calendar soon. As before, discounts apply for ordering more than one and price includes postage.

MAIL TO: Arkansas Railroad Club Calendar, PO Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send me:

1 Calendar @ \$7.00 each .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Calendars (2-9) @ \$6.50 each ... ..

\_\_\_\_\_ Calendars (10 or more) @ \$6.00 each ... ..

(Calendars are Postage Paid)



TOTAL ENCLOSED .....

1999 DUES ARE DUE

CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATIONS BEING TAKEN

1999 CALENDAR ORDERS BEING TAKEN

This sheet contains the 1999 renewal form for dues in the Arkansas Railroad Club, 1999 calendar order form and Christmas Party reservation form. 1999 dues are \$20 local only, \$37 for local and NRHS membership. Christmas party cost is \$15 per person. Calendar costs are \$7 each.

Enclosed also is an envelop already addressed for you to use in mailing back any of these reservations. This will be the only time envelopes will be enclosed.

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### CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATION

Our annual Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 6 beginning at 6 p.m. at the University Park Adult Leisure Center, 6401 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Little Rock. Cost is \$15 per person. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Railroad Club and mail to PO Box 9151, North Little Rock AR 72119.

Name: (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (init) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

