

arkov
HE
2771
.A8
S4
V. 13
Mar 2000

The Scrambler

Volume 13, Number 6

March 2000

Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

Opinions expressed in the *Scrambler* are those of the Editor and contributors. They do not represent the official view of the Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter, its members, officers or directors or the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. unless otherwise stated.

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 17, 2000

The Chapter met for the regular monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on Feb. 17, at the Shiloh Museum's "General Store". The meeting was called to order by Chapter President, Bob Hofer and members and guests, Don Kincy and Troy Buell were welcomed to the meeting.

The minutes of last month's meeting, as published in the *Scrambler* were approved as published.

In the report from officers National Director/Membership Chairman Bob Oswald reported that he will not attend the Spring National Directors meeting. He also presented a book from Martin Post.

Bill Ussery reported on delinquent memberships

Vice-President/Program chairman Bill Merrifield reported on upcoming programs and on the children's-program. He resented a drawing of the proposed steam locomotive and gave a report on the construction and partial cost of the project. He also presented a plan for a Diesel - Electric ALCO RS-1.

Treasurer Bill Ussery gave the Treasurer's report, a copy of the report is on file with the Secretary's records.

Scrambler Editor Tom Duggan reported on attempting to up-grade the quality and number of pictures in the *Scrambler*.

Reports from committees:None

Under old business

Trains subscriptions, Tom Duggan reported that there is no records available on check out of the *Trains* magazines at either the Springdale or Rogers libraries. There had been one check out at Bella Vista library. Ray Toler made a motion to drop all subscriptions except for Bella Vista The motion died for lack of second. George Alison made a motion to drop all subscriptions. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed with two members voting against the motion.

Under new business, Tom Duggan announced that the annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Society meeting will be in Springdale. He made a proposal that Club Conductors be used to escort members on trips on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad. There was some discussion, no decision was reached.

The business meeting was dismissed and Ray Toler presented interesting and informative program on Cuban Sugar Train Railroads.

Ron Allen
Secretary, ABMT-NRHS

Observations of the President

Your Board of Directors (7 out of 9, thank you guys) met on February 17 prior to the regular meeting. We worked on a calendar for this year. It will be forthcoming with your April bulletin. Several activities for our club are in the works. As teasers, I will throw these out: On Saturday, June 10 we are planning on spending all day in Ft. Smith. Bob Oswald is working on the museum and operating trolley visitation, and possible tours of two railroads operating in Ft. Smith.

There will be the possibility of a day tour on May 20 to Kansas, including some train riding. Read your *Scambler* for these announcements. One trip that is nailed down, is a three-day trip to Mt. Pleasant,

Iowa, for extensive riding of the Mid-West Old Threshers steam and traction equipment. This is a chance for our club to support the Iowa chapter and Overland Chapters (Moline, IL) of the NRHS, who are sponsoring this operation. It will also be a chance to meet NRHS National Treasurer, Dick Billings. It is not during the reunion; so it will be just rail fans riding. See a brief description elsewhere in the *Scambler*, and come to the March 16 meeting for a complete hand out on this trip, or call me at 501-855-1532. We reconfirmed our commitment to Bill Merrifield's committee in their work on a children's (and adult) display for use at our booth, and wherever we deem appropriate to display it. Your club is on the move. Be a part of it!!

White River Scenic Railroad

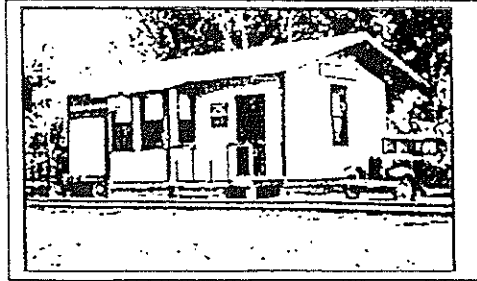
Just after the February issue of the *Scambler* went out I received a call from Sean Reed, CMO of the White River Scenic Railroad. He wished to clarify two statements attributed to him in the January issue. He said that the 1.2million and 2.0 million figures referred to tourist visits, not the population of the Flippin service area and Hot Springs respectively. He also mentioned

that the re-evaluation of the Flippin operation referred to equipment utilization. The Flippin operation will operate in 2000 but the equipment utilized will reflect the needs of the new Hot Springs operation. We are delighted to clarify the statement and pleased also that the White River Scenic Railroad has renewed its 2000 membership in the Chapter.

The Mt. Pleasant Iowa Trip

July 1-3 trip to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. July 1; all day trolley operation on Midwest Electric Railway. Evening trolley rides and a night photo session. July 2; full day narrow gauge steam line operation on the Midwest Central Railroad. Also trolleys will be operating all day.

July 3; carbarn will be open, trolleys will be out, and you will have a chance for more photos. Cost for the package is \$149. This includes two nights at the Mt. Pleasant Ramada Limited, and unlimited riding for two days.



Carona depot photo from Heartland's website

WICHITA CHAPTER NRHS HOSTS TRI-CHAPTER TRAIN RIDE AND MEETING

SATURDAY MAY 20, 2000

DEPARTS: AT 10 A.M. FROM RESTORED EX-SANTA FE DEPOT
AT CHERRYVALE. KS (123 N. Depot St.)

TO: RESTORED EX-MO PAC DEPOT AT CORONA. KS.
RETURN ABOUT 6 P. M.

90-MILE ROUND TRIP. EX-AT&SF, EX-FRISCO. EX-MOPAC LINES.
NOW OPERATED BY SOUTH KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA RAILROAD.
WITH DIESEL POWER

PRICE: \$40 – INCLUDES CATERED LUNCH AT CORONA FROM “CHICKEN ANNIE’S”

Reservations and advance payment required by May 6, 2000. Any cancellations required
by May 6, 2000.

Mail to: L.E. Stagner, Treasurer, Wichita Chapter, NRHS
1402 West Fifth
Newton, KS 67114-3133

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No. () _____

No. Reservations: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks Payable to “Wichita Chapter, NRHS.”

Questions may be directed to Jim McKeel, President, Wichita, Chapter, NRHS, at 316-721-4378.

Editor's note- I visited Cherryvale in 1995 and rode on ex-Boston & Maine ex-MTA Budd cars pulled by locos from the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad. Outside of town one could see remnants of an interurban that ran until after World War II . The Cherryvale depot is of stone and has a tower with the old Santa Fe logo emblazoned on it. It should be a fun trip and afford one the chance to meet other Chapter members.

AMTRAK from Friends of Amtrak

EXPANSION DETAILS BECOMING AVAILABLE--February 28, 2000.

Details of Amtrak's plan to expand services are now becoming available in the press. Here's what we know, or think we know, thus far:

The Crescent will split in Meridian, Miss., with one segment going to New Orleans and the other to Fort Worth, Texas. New service will be provided to Vicksburg, Miss., and to Monroe and Shreveport, La.

The Jacksonville, Fla.-to-Los Angeles Sunset Limited will take a new route through Texas, eliminating service in 2002 to Del Rio, Alpine and Sanderson, and increasing service to larger markets like Abilene.

The newly named Manhattan Limited will provide overnight service between New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Chicago, with more trains serving western Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The Twilight Limited will link Michigan and upstate New York by traveling non-stop through Ontario, Canada.

New Michigan Corridor services will link Michigan with Toledo, OH.

The International will enhance service between Chicago and Toronto while serving new, more populated markets in Michigan, including Ann Arbor and Dearborn. Service will be eliminated to East Lansing, Durand, Flint, Lapeer and Port Huron, MI

A new overnight train between Chicago and Des Moines, Iowa, will serve populated markets in Iowa and Illinois and help

Amtrak launch its refrigerated express business by providing access to meat producers in Iowa.

The Hiawatha will extend one Chicago-to-Milwaukee route north to Fond du Lac, WI, allowing Amtrak's mail and express business to serve a magazine publisher there.

A new train linking Chicago and Janesville, WI, will provide service to the Lake Geneva resort area in southern Wisconsin.

One Silver Service train from Florida to New York will extend to Boston, allowing Massachusetts and Connecticut residents to reach Florida without changing trains in New York. (*Scrambler* Editor-What about Rhode Island?)

In Florida, Silver Service trains will split at Jacksonville, providing the first service to coastal destinations including Daytona Beach, Cape Canaveral and Fort Pierce.

The Texas Eagle, which runs four days a week, will introduce daily service between Chicago and San Antonio.

A new Aztec Eagle train will run from San Antonio, Texas, to Monterrey, Mexico, offering passenger service and allowing Amtrak's mail and express service to deliver car parts from Detroit to Monterrey.

A new, luxury transcontinental train will travel between New York and Los Angeles in 60 hours.

Amtrak hopes to extend service to downtown Louisville and, eventually, to Nashville, Tenn.

MOVIE(S) OF THE MONTH

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY COLLECTION

Edison (mostly) 1903-1914 77 minutes (silent, with piano)

With one exception these were produced by the Edison Company and its inovative film director Edwin S. Porter. The collection begins with a one-minute clip, RAILWAY SMASHUP (1904), of a staged head-on collision. This is followed by a five-minute vignette filmed in England, A RAILWAY TRAGEDY (1904), wherein a young woman is robbed and thrown off the train, though not killed. But the perpetrator is apprehended.

A MOTHER'S DEVOTION (7 minutes, 1911) tells the story of an aged widow who braves a storm to save her engineer son from running his train onto a damaged bridge. She lights her kerosene soaked patchwork quilt and stops the train just in time.

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY (11 minutes, 1903) was the first American movie to tell a story. The bandits stop a train, rob the passengers, force the engineman to move his uncoupled locomotive down the tracks, escape on horseback and are soon caught by a hastily formed posse. Needless to say, the movie was a sensation.

Next on the program is THE TRAIN WRECKERS (11 minutes, ca. 1905?) A band of thugs piles cross-ties on the track, presumably to stop and rob a train. They are discovered by a young lady who is then tied to a tree, but released by one of the smartest dogs in moviedom (he can untie knots!). She manages to stop the train, but after its passage is again caught by the robbers, slugged and left sprawled across the track. The next train stops just in time. The engine is uncoupled and the crew, armed with rifles, chase the bad guys who are by this time fleeing on a pump car. They're caught and all's well that ends well.

You're all familiar with remakes of earlier movies. In 1903 there were no copyright laws protecting movies. So Sigmund Lubin, a Philadelphia producer, pirated and remade GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY (no "the") almost scene-for-scene in 1904. Except he used a readily available Reading Railroad "camelback" instead of the conventional Lackawana locomotive of Edison. (11 minutes)

The longest film here is THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL (1914, 19 minutes). A sleepy telegrapher fails to stop a children's excursion train and nearly causes a head-on collision with a special carrying the railroad president to a vital meeting. His alert, clever and gutsy wife manages to overtake the train in her Model T and averts a disaster.

Finally comes THE LITTLE TRAIN ROBBERY (1905, 10 minutes). Boys, ponies, a 15" gauge park railroad loaded with girls, Keystone-like cops, etc. Boys and cops all wind up in the park lake. Need I say more?

Lots of fun with some unintended humor.

RCO 3-00



**ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Chapter established November 1987

2000 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	BOB HOFER	855-1532	5 Breton Lane, Bella Vista , AR 72715
Vice President	BILL MERRIFIELD	751-7163	5278 Silent Grove Road, Springdale, AR 72762
Secretary	RON ALLEN	751-0761	2718 Jean Street, Springdale, AR 72762
Treasurer	BILL USSERY	751-2873	112 Willella Place, Springdale, AR 72764
National Director	BOB OSWALD	521-9714	2511 Elizabeth Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72703
Director	RAY TOLER	751-7810	P.O. Box 6005, Springdale, AR 72766
Director	LARRY CAIN	751-1949	3413 Butterfield Coach, Springdale, AR 72764
Director	GENE SCHMITZ	443-4097	1645 Wedington Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703
Editor	TOM DUGGAN	756-1901	15225 Lakewood Drive, Lowell, AR 72745

Meetings... ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS Chapter No. 158 (ABMT) Third Thursday of each month (except December dinner meeting). Meetings are held at the Shiloh Museum's General Store, 118 West Johnson, Springdale, Arkansas at 7:00 PM. Visitors are welcome at all meetings. Annual dues for 2000 remain unchanged at \$29 for individuals and \$31 for a family. Dues are 50% less for members joining between June 1 and September 30. Please call 501-750-8165 for directions to the Shiloh Museum

**ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1303
SPRINGDALE, AR 72765-1303
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**March 16 Program
Tom Duggan presents
Transportation
Collectibles**

University of Arkansas
Libraries, Fayetteville
ARK COLL-OV
13:7
Received on: 01-23-04
The Scrambler