

The Scrambler

Volume 14, Number 3

November 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 October 19, 2000

The Chapter met for the regular monthly meeting at the Shiloh Museum's Old General Store at 7: 00 PM on October 19, 2000. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Hofer and the members and guests were welcomed. There were three guests present.

Paul Trudeau gave a brief history of Rock Island RR passenger cars at Hickory Creek.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved as read.

There was a brief report on the Chapter Board of Directors meeting.

In the report from officers, National Director/Membership Chairman Bob Oswald reported he will go to Dallas for National Board meeting.

Vice-President Bill Merrifield will need a program for the November meeting.

Tom Duggan & George Alison were appointed to serve as an Auditing committee.

Fred Lewis & Tom Scott were appointed to a Nominating committee.

The December dinner / meeting will be held December 14th at 6:30 PM at the Springdale AQ Chicken House on North Thompson. (71B).

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

There were no special committee reports. There was no old business to discuss.

Under new business, there was a discussion on AMTRAK by Tom Scott and by Mr. Jim Wakefield on the original Jesse James movie who is trying to find filming locations. He also reported his work on the Missouri & North Arkansas / Missouri & Arkansas Railway

George Alison reported on new a McDonald's in Rogers with Frisco RR theme, will look into using volunteers from the Chapter for the Grand Opening. Tom Duggan made a motion for George to be a committee of one to follow up on the project. The motion was voted on and passed.

The business meeting was adjourned and Bob Oswald gave an interesting and informative program on the history of the development and of the types of steam locomotives.

Ron Allen, Secretary

Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter-National Railway Historical Society

Observations of the President

Hope Y'all survived Halloween and are looking forward to Thanksgiving. My wife and I just returned from a trip on Amtrak from Omaha, NE, to Truckee, CA, and back. We were in an economy sleeper, with all meals included. Going to CA, we were ahead of schedule everywhere. Coming back, we were running 4 hours late, due to a UP freight train derailment. Previous days' Amtraks had been turned back on both sides of the derailment. We were the first thing through on the shoofly. I'll talk more about this trip when I show my slides after Christmas. See Y'all at the meeting Thursday, November 16, 7:00 PM.

Chapter Christmas Banquet

Committee Chairman Tom Stark has finalized arrangements for the Christmas Banquet. It will be held on **Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 PM**. The place will be the Springdale AQ Chicken restaurant where we will have a private room. The banquet will be Dutch treat as in recent years and participants will be able to order from the wide AQ Chicken menu. The Christmas banquet will also include a brief program. Please be sure to mark your calendar for this evening of fun, food and fellowship. Please let Tom Stark know if you plan to attend.

November Meeting

Vice President Bill Merrifield is the host of our **November 16** program. He bills it as a multi-media show. The program is entitled "Danger in the High Colorado Rockies: Building the Moffat Tunnel-A Personal Family History." We hope you can join us at 7PM on Thursday, November 16 for this interesting and informative program.

Arkansas & Missouri Railroad

The A & M is operating an extensive schedule of special trains in November and December. Perhaps the most interesting to the railfan is the Annual Christmas train that departs Springdale at 7:00 AM and runs north to Monett, MO. The train will then make stops at every station on the line. It departs the last stop (Fort Smith) at 4:35 PM. So the day would be long one. You can also ride selected segments. Call the A & M at 751-8600 to obtain pricing information.

White River Scenic Railroad

Chapter member White River Scenic Railroad is very busy with fall riders. The line now offers caboose service utilizing former B & O bay window cabooses on trains from Flippin and Calico Rock. The flat rate for up to five people is \$ 175 including a box lunch and soft drinks. additional caboose riders, up to a maximum of 17, will be allowed for a charge of \$35.00 per head. The caboose is located between the locomotive and power car and the stove works for those cool days of fall. Call 800-305-6527 to make reservations or to learn more.

Henceforth, from time to time, I will be offering a vignette of one of the "fallen flag" railroads. I'll begin with our hometown line, the Frisco. RCO

For three days (July 12-14) in 1955 the Frisco conducted 71 representatives of investment firms on a rail tour of the line. Including officers and directors, but excluding the train staff, 95 passengers were on board. Eight of Frisco's 51 sleeping cars were used plus one or more business cars, diners and head-end cars, making up quite an impressive train. Power almost certainly was a brace of 2250 horsepower 2000 series E8As.

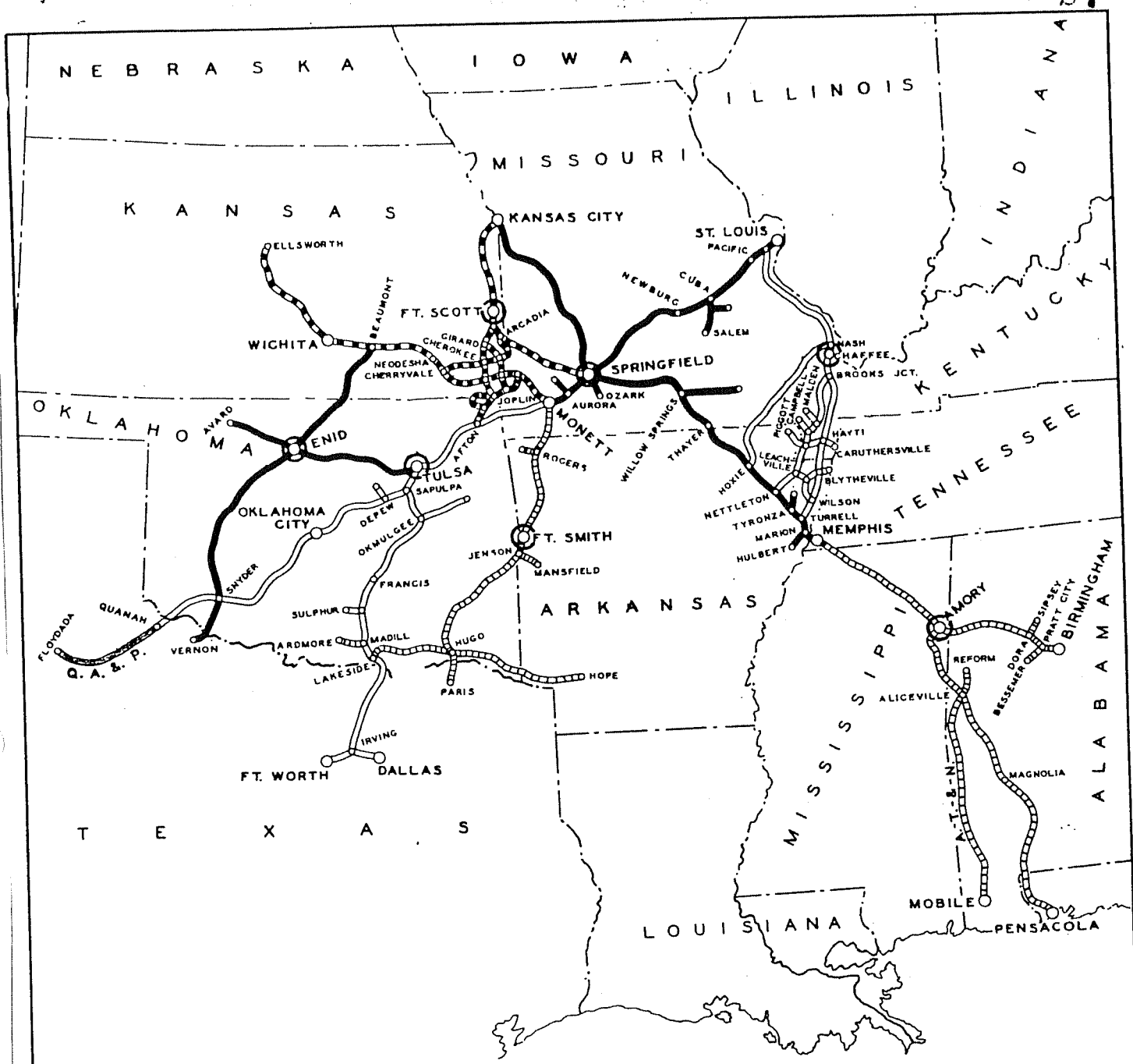
The schedule, here condensed, was:

Tuesday, July 12:	Lv. St. Louis, MO	8:00 AM
	Ar. Springfield, MO	2:00 PM
	(shop tour?)	
Wednesday, July 13:	Lv. Springfield, MO	5:00 PM
	Ar. Kansas City, MO	9:30 PM
	Lv. Kansas City, MO	10:00 AM
	(via Afton, OK)	
	Ar. Tulsa, OK	3:15 PM
	(Dinner at Southern Hills Country Club)	6:30 PM
Thursday, July 14	Lv. Tulsa, OK	9:00 PM
	Lv. Monett, MO	11:48 PM
	Ar. Springfield, MO	12:47 AM
	Lv. Springfield, MO	12:55 AM
	Ar. Memphis, TN	7:30 AM
	Lv. Memphis, TN	8:30 AM
	Ar. Birmingham, AL	3:00 PM
	(End of trip)	

The management proudly noted that the Frisco had been completely dieselized since February, 1952, with 417 units (289 freight, 23 passenger, 105 switchers) in service. As a result they were able to completely close 14 roundhouses, partially close 11 more, retire 26 coal chutes, 87 fuel oil tanks, and 231 water tanks. Between 1926 and 1950, 1,099.82 miles of main and branch line had been abandoned, considerably improving the railroad's efficiency. In 1954 the Frisco owned 26,149 freight cars (including cabooses), 359 passenger cars of all kinds, and 1,677 company service cars (including 12 business cars).



E8As 2010 "Count Fleet" & 2011 "Gallant Fox", Lindenwood Shop



— LEGEND —

<u>DIVISIONS</u>	<u>HEADQUARTERS</u>
EASTERN	SPRINGFIELD, MO.
CENTRAL	FT. SMITH, ARK.
SOUTHWESTERN	TULSA, OKLA.
WESTERN	ENID, OKLA.
NORTHERN	FT. SCOTT, KANS.
SOUTHERN	AMORY, MISS.
RIVER	CHAFFEE, MO.

HEADQUARTERS

OPERATING DIVISIONS OF

ST. LOUIS-SAN FRANCISCO RAILWAY CO.

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGR.— SPRINGFIELD, MO.— JUNE 15, 1955

**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**