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ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
National Railway Historical Society

3175 Katherine Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703

July 21st 81
The monthly meetings are held every third Thursday, 7:30 PM, weather permitting at the Shiloh Museum in the General Store building located on the corner of N. Main St. and 118 W. Johnson here in Springdale, Arkansas.

I am the happy possessor of Pentrex's "Best of 1987" railroad videotape. It is a two hour color tape with narration and live railroad sound. The camera work is excellent. There are telephoto shots in which you feel you are right on top of the action, until the camera man begins to back off while keeping the train the same size and in focus. My particular favorite shots were of Union Pacific's newly repainted two tone grey with gold trim 4-8-4 steam engine #8444. X8444 pulled both freight and passenger equipment, with great pacing, wheel action and piston motion shots. The section on Norfolk Western's "A" #1218 and "J" #611 at the NRHS convention in Roanoke was good. The scenes of UP 4-6-6-4 #3985 around the Sherman Hill area were great, but I was surprised by the sound of the exhaust when the engine starts slowly, it is not the steady rhythmic sound I expected. In another part, Union Pacific diesels are deadheading passenger equipment from the Super Bowl to Council Bluffs through Cahone Pass. At Summit the train runs a stop signal. Two miles down the track it meets a Santa Fe freight working it's way slowly up the hill...fortunately no accident...the UP had to back to Summit and clear for the freight. The narrator tells us the crew of the UP train was dismissed for that rules violation. Only once was I disappointed, and that's because I live in MoPac area where we still have some blue MP/UP diesel units. A segment covering UP trains over Sherman Hill near Ty siding had a 4 unit train with the fourth unit being dark. The tape did not give a complete run-by of all the engines, but I don't believe it was an MP blue, I think it may have been a grey SP. I'll never know for sure. There are segments on Stack trains, GE B39-8s and LMX, a shot of a BL-2, Operation Lifesaver footage, Cajon Pass and Tehachapi Loop, and steam wheel slippage. Pentrex's "The Best of 1987" is a tape worth having. Remember Pentrex has shot footage of the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad which should be out in a future tape.

On Saturday June 25th, I went train chasing and photographing with Steve Roberts and Ken George. All our action was on the KCS between Watts OK and Neosho MO. We climbed "Butler's Bluff", from which many of KCS's famed publicity pictures were shot. If you have been reading any of the railroad magazines lately, and if you have heard about the kidding I have taken from Steve Roberts and Ken Albrecht about the allusive grey CSX unit on our Muskogee trip, well we now have some shots of KCS's allusive grey engine 652. We found 652 at Neosho, working helper service on unit coal trains south to between Decatur and Gentry. I was told by Ken Albrecht that KCS does not like the paint scheme and have sort of hidden it away. The three of us liked it's looks, but I will have some shots in my presentation so you can be your own judge. In any case we had a fun day.

The May-June 1988 issue of "Locomotive & Railway Preservation" magazine has several reports on Arkansas Railroads. Augusta RR #300, a 1924 Alco 2-6-0 has been moved from Paragould to the St. Louis, Iron Mt. & Southern tourist railroad at Jackson MO. The article goes into depth about the engine history. The Illinois Railway Museum located at Union IL is getting the Dardanelle & Russellville 1937 EMC Model SC #14. For those of you who are Frisco devotees there's a picture of Frisco Russian Decapod #1630 that is the museum's main steam operating locomotive. Also in the same issue is a two page article with

pictures of St Louis County National Museum of Transport's Frisco #1522 4-8-2.

I am sure most of you read in the Northwest Arkansas Times or the Arkansas Gazette that Union Pacific is closing its older repair shops in Omaha NE. It will move the locomotive repair operations to the Dowling B Jenks shops at North Little Rock. It is estimated that maybe between 300 and 400 jobs will be created. Some of these will be filled by Omaha transferees. The Omaha shops were about 75 years old vs No. Little Rocks 4 years. The Jenks shops are housed in a building of more than 250,000 square feet, with the latest technology available. The shop repairs 300 locomotives a year...stripping down, rebuilding worn out and accident damaged locomotives. It performs light repairs on another 5,000 locomotives and service work on 30,000 others a year.

Martin Post

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Need to Know Department:

The Rogers Museum has received a Southern Pacific plate used in dining car service. The museum only retains items for its collection that are from the area. Jan Harcourt would like to know if Southern Pacific Dining cars ever run on, were interchanged with, or detoured over this branch of the Frisco or up and down the Kansas City Southern? If you have any information please call her at the Museum 636-0162. Let our Editor know also.

Does anyone know of an appraiser of railroadiana memorabilia, artifacts, pictures & photographs, paper items (RR forms, timetables etc.)? Please pass the information on to Martin Post.

Tony Hannold is looking for a Caboose Coal Burning Potbelly Stove for the A&M caboose. If anyone has an idea were to obtain or find one, please contact Tony at the A&M RR 751-9711.

This months program by Martin Post will be a slide presentation of some recent rail photographing trips. It will include two of the rapid transit line in and around Chicago: The CTA..elevated/subway system and the Chicago, South Shore & South Bend Michigan City Shops. Closer to home some UP/MP, MKT, KCS amd maybe a few A&M and several nostalgia shots.

July 1987

Other News: The speakers for the August and September meetings are: Mike Condren and Bob Oswald, respectively. Many of you may have seen Mike's photo work in last November's issue of Trains concerning rail operation over the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad. The presentation will be about Frisco operation (possibly BN, also) in this area ... this will be a meeting you won't want to miss!

The list of newsletter names that were nominated over the last few meetings has been pared down to these candidates:

GREEN EYE	THE SIGNAL	TRAIN ORDERS
ON TRACK	SMOKE & CINDERS	
RUSTY RAILS	SOOT & CINDERS	

Although many of the "fallen names" were quite imaginative, the overseer committee found many to be very similar to newsletter titles of other Chapter/railfare-oriented tomes. Please choose one of the "survivor" titles from this group and submit your selection to: Ken Albrecht, 720-j HOLCOMB ST., Springdale, Ark., 72764-5401.

Our ranks are growing: congratulations to two new members: Albert J. Black and Riley Cushman. Welcome Aboard!

You know, the editor was going to insert some remark about Mike Condren doing a treatise and slide presentation that dated the Frisco back to the age of the dinosaur with Bob Oswald doing a follow-up presentation about fifty ways to use geology to age both the dinosaur skeletal matter and Frisco's first GP-7 order, but good taste intervened.....I think???

Other Business: Railroadiana and Model Railroading.

Two names have been called to my attention that may be of interest to some of you out there.

- 1) Wm. Gerald Highburger, P.O. Box 418, Fayetteville, Ark., 72702, has approx. 400 magazines for sale. The majority of the titles are model train oriented: Model Railroader, Model Railroading, Trains are available. His two-car garage is chock-full of model RR equipment representative of the steam-diesel transition era (this sounds like quite a selection for us over-25 folks). Many road names: 8-9 name passenger train consists, over 60 locos, again steam and contemporary. Interested? his number: 443-5736.
- 2) the venerable A.R. Bowmaster, Sec/Treas. KC Chapter NRHS, 5038 No. Kensington, Kansas City, MO., 64119. He is disposing of a large collection (his) of Class 1 (and lesser) railway timecards aka employee timetables dating from mid-1980's back to early-50's with some -40's era thrown in to sweeten the selection. There is a full-page selection of Diesel Operating Manuals from Alco-GE and Baldwin (even lesser known EMD) as well as corresponding vendor and component manuals. Very reasonable prices. Write, or better yet, call: 816-454-1662.

The Restoration and Preservation work projects on Sunday evenings will be discontinued for-the-time-being, until cooler weather in September. Thank those of you who have come out to work on the projects. Look forward to seeing you, along with some new faces, in September. We will let you know the start-up date later. Thanks again.

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