

THE SCRAMBLER
ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
of the National Railway Historical Society

P. O. Box 562
Fayetteville, AR 72702-0562



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ALL ABOARD! ? ABMT's meeting is set for Thursday, November 17, 7:30 PM, at Shiloh Museum's "General Store" building on N. Main St. (near the corner of 118 W. Johnson St., Springdale, Arkansas.

The guest speaker for the month will be Mike Condren. His feature topic will cover operations of the Kansas City Southern, past and current. Mike is known regionally among those of us who railfan this area plus the surrounding states; you will not want to miss this show.

For those of you who like to keep up with activity on Tony Hannold's A & M: Essex Terminal C-420 has been on the property for several days. "Work in Progress"-C 420 #60 has been christened the "Chris Belmont". Mystery question: Who is Chris Belmont?

Feature Member Antecdote.

Juanita Toler, by-line

"Some Encounters With Trains"

My first memory of trains concerns a ride with my mother and little sister. I was about five years old. Mother left me to watch the baby while she went to bring us a drink. The window was open by our seat and my sister began to climb out through it. I upset the whole car screaming for Mother!

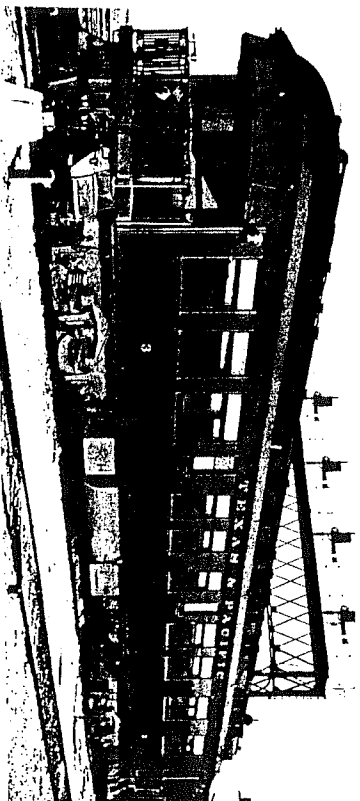
Time lapsed. I was learning to drive. I had just heard that my boy friend had about blown up the laboratory with a chemical experiment--burning himself badly. Of course, my mind wasn't on driving, and as I drove along the street in Clarksville, Arkansas I struck a switch engine at a crossing. I was dragged down the track some distance. The enraged engineer began to yell at me. I was so upset I fumed back at him, "Well, I didn't hurt the train, did I?" This became a story everyone told and laughed about for I was well known in our town.

After these setbacks, I've had some wonderful train rides.

During WW2, Ray was stationed at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, and I rode "The Jeffersonian" and the "St. Louisan" often to visit him and return home.

One of our most interesting rides has been since 'steam' became an epoch of our past. Ray and I went to Cass, West Virginia to take a train ride over which lumber had been hauled. The locomotive which we rode behind that day was a Shay. I was fascinated by its strange profile--a boiler on one side and the engine on the other! The ride was great and the scenery well worth the trip. I have the pictures to prove it!

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The President's Observation

All Aboard! We have had our National Railway Historical Society Charter for a year. 18 membership applications were submitted with our Charter application. One year later, with two applications (one family, and one associate) to be approved at this meeting, we will have 39 memberships; including 8 family, 2 associate, and 3 out-of-state. The monthly programs have been varied, pleasurable, and informative. A lady, an out-of-stater, a guest/associate and male members have presented these programs. Thanks Ray for lining them up. Most have been slide programs, but we have the option for more movies and video tape programs. While on the subject of programs I am sure we could get an [overhead?] projector for a program featuring photographic prints, diagrams, or specialty collections.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the Shiloh Museum, staff, and particularly Bob Besom, without who's help we would not have had such a successful year. The museum has furnished us with a meeting room, equipment for projecting slides and video tapes, and even hot coffee. Not only that, Bob has included our program information along with the museums publicity, thereby reaching many more of the general public. The museum and ABMT cosponsored our only outing, the St. Paul Branch tracings trip. Bob Besom saw to the printing of the trip guide that Bob Oswald so well researched and compiled. I had fun, learned how to spot telltale signs of an old right-of-way, meet people who had ridden the old line, and learned some history of the area. Thanks Bobs [2] and John Glass. Hope there will be more outings in the future.

1989 membership renewal and dues are upon us. National dues are:
Individual...\$12.00, Family...\$14.00. ABMT dues are \$12.00. Total for
Individual...\$24.00, Family...\$26.00. Checks may be made payable to....ABMT or
Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter of NRHS. Ken George, Treasurer, has received
the '89 dues notices and membership cards. He will have these at the meeting
Thursday the 17th for those of you who would like to pay your '89 dues now. NRHS
Bulletin #4 should have been received by most members, except applicants of the
last several months. In any event, old and new members alike should receive
Bulletins #5 and #6, even regular members who have joined by paying '89 dues and
are on the six issue '89 Bulletin list.

In a couple of past newsletters I reviewed several video tapes. Now I
would like to cover one Ray Toler loaned me on SSW 819. The time span covered is
from Nov. 1983 thru July 1986. It starts with the removal of #819 from a Pine
Bluff park. Sections of track were moved from behind to in front of the engine
which was actually moving tender first onto the SP/SSW tracks. Interesting, with
a great number of personnel involved. At the shops you see the uncoupling of the
tender. Shop shots show some of the stripping and rebuilding, including
interiors of the firebox, boiler/flues, and tender tank, with explanations
...very good. After reassembly, pressure tests, the tender recoupling,
firing-up, and comments by some of the workers, several test runs are shown.
Most of the rest of the tape was fan trips with the exception of an insertion of
some old movie footage of SP California commuter operation with the 819 series
engines along with other class steam engines including several shots of
Daylights. The quality of the tape is poor ... fuzzy, not sharp, hard to see
detail, particularly bad were the fan trips. I wonder if this is a tape that was
made from a tape that was made from a tape etc. which lost definition with each
successive taping. It is too bad, as much of the material is great. I could use
less fan trip run-bys, too repetitive.

See you on the 17th,

Martin

11/11/88