



THE SCRAMBLER

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
National Railway Historical Society



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

Editor: Ervin Lewis Issue #36 19 July 1990
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ALL AB-O-O-O-O-ARD!!!

CHAPTER MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 19, 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Shiloh Museum's "General Store" building, downtown Springdale, Arkansas.

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WE'RE NOT SURE what, if anything, events disclosed on page 2 in Martin Post's "The President's Observation" column about excursion trains on tracks of the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad (a 139-mile freight line with one 4-mile branch) will affect the presentation by Rusty Myers of Fort Smith, AR, former member of our chapter and now of the newly-formed NRHS chapter at Fort Smith. His topic, chosen months ago, is "Proposed Excursions on the A&M Railroad". Our guess is that Rusty is so immersed in this subject that he'll present an accurate preview of not only the trips already announced but also others in the making and genuinely exciting to railfans at the meeting, including members, guests and visitors. It seems quite likely we'll hear about other rides that may be offered in these regions, which include some of the most beautiful and photogenic scenery along any railroad right-of-way in the United States. It is not unusual to see wild deer and other creatures of "The Natural State" dash away as an A&M train approaches.

The A&M is headquartered in downtown Springdale, where vintage cars are being rehabilitated by, among others, our own chapter members. The railroad's president is J. Anthony Hannold, a member of our chapter and a highly authentic businessman and railroader.

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EXCURSIONS, especially in the warm season, are so prevalent they are too numerous to mention. But one, in early spring, deserves attention as indicating what might prove popular elsewhere. Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum's April bulletin reports its excursion from Birmingham, AL, to Chattanooga, TN, March 31 and April 1 was sold out--with more than 1,000 passengers each day. And a bulletin editor reports one additional train, and possibly two, could have been run, with hundreds of would-be riders unable to buy tickets.

TIME MAGAZINE for July 16 has a surprising three pages on rail travel, especially in Colorado, Alaska, Virginia and Texas, headed "What a Way to Go". Plus nearly a column, headed "Getting Back On Track", about Los Angeles' first light rapid-transit rail system for commuters, from downtown L.A. to Long Beach, 20 miles to the south, for a flat fare of \$1.10.

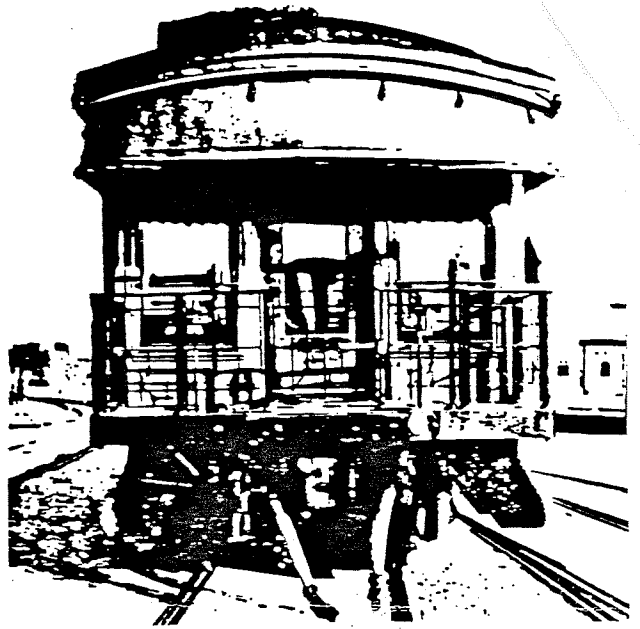
IT IS ENCOURAGING to see that some of our chapter's newer members are quite young. We older members are not the only ones who get a glow at remembering, or learning about, the era of fine passenger trains--which seem to belong more to the past or the future than to the present. The younger members may live to see trains so fast as to be more practical than any other form of transportation at distances of many hundreds of miles. When that happy time comes, vastly fewer people will have to wait and perhaps miss connections at Miami, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Albuquerque, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and other major cities, not to mention scores of smaller ones, while the weather or traffic clears where they are or at their destinations.

AND IF YOU THINK the above is a joke, be aware of a report that came just the other day from Geneva, Switzerland. International Air Transportation Association said growing congestion has already caused serious problems and could bring air travel in western Europe to a "near standstill" within the next 10 years unless air space management is radically reorganized.

The
President's
Observation

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you Ervin Lewis has tendered his resignation as the SCRAMBLER editor, effective with the publishing of this July, 1990 Issue 36. Erv had told me when he volunteered that he would do so only for a year. Erv has actually been editor since Issue 20. I have tried to cajole him in to staying longer, but it takes too much of his retirement fun time. There are frustrations, working to a deadline, collecting of printable material, editing, the cutting and pasting to fit articles between the printed headings, meeting dates & locations, my President's Observation remarks, (and Erv has no idea until he sees it, how many lines I may take up). After the printers return the monthly newsletter, Erv and Ruth (his wife) then fold, tape, stamp, apply address labels

and drop the copies in the mail. Erv, you have put out an excellent newsletter. I hope you will continue to contribute items and articles to the Scrambler. Continue to suggest certificates of appreciation. Ervin Lewis, I thank you on behalf of all the members!!!



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We are now in dire need of an Editor or Co-Editors ... Please contact me or Erv Lewis 521-4511 to let us know you will take-on the editorship for a while..

Some members may not have seen the several articles in the local papers, or coverage shown on several of the local TV networks' news programs, there will be excursion trains running on the A&M sponsored by the Boston Mountains Rail Excursion Co. The operation will begin out of Rogers on Saturday July 21st departure 1 PM, followed by a trip on Sunday at 2 PM. The 4-hour round-trip between Rogers and Chester will stop at Springdale and Fayetteville to take on passengers. On alternate weekends the trips will be between Van Buren and Chester. Rogers trip tickets are sold by the Chamber of Commerce, Monday thru Friday 8 to 5. Fares: First Class Observation Dome \$25.50; Adult Standard Coach \$20.50; Children age 12 and under \$15.50; and a 10% senior citizen discount. Refreshments are available. The five climate-controlled cars seat between 216 and 250. --- The big news is Boston Mountains Rail Excursion Co. has asked if the ABMT members would work as car hosts on the Rogers originating trips. The ABMT Chapter treasury would receive a donation for our help, and as you know from Bill Ussery's monthly reports given at the meetings, the treasury is empty. Please contact Ray Toler, 751-7810 if you would be willing to work as a 'car host'.

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The Restoration - Preservation group meets almost every Sunday, some starting at 1 o'clock to work on the cars want to help, and possibly earn a free train ride? Show-up,...no experience necessary. Place: Arkansas & Missouri Railroad's new Springdale train barn. Tony H, Bob O, Cris L, Ray T, Ron A, and others will welcome you.

No new members to "welcome" this month, or last. Remember new members can join now till September 1st for half the annual dues and we have not yet received NRHS's Bulletin No. 3 with all Chapters listed with locations, meeting info, activities..etc.

Stop! Look! Listen! I can not be at the meeting Thursday 19th of July, but you be there. August's meeting is the 16th. Got a program? .. contact Chris Lord through the A&M RR, phone 751-5763, or talk to him at a meeting. ##...Members who were in St.Louis during the National Convention June 14th - 17th will put on a combined Convention program at the December Dinner Meeting ... that's you: Mike Calcott, Bart Jennings, Bob Lundeen, Bob Oswald, Mike Solligman, and MP ... did I leave out someone who attended that I don't know about?

Martin Post

7/8/90


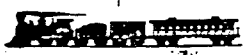
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TO THE ABOVE, Martin Post asks that chapter members serving as car hosts on the excursions originating at Rogers talk up membership in A/EM Chapter of NRHS to riders and invite them to meetings, which are open to everyone.

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SPACE LIMITATIONS cause us to neglect items from other NRHS chapter newsletters, but here's one we can't resist. President Don Campbell of the Kansas City chapter says he desperately needs a copy of the 1980 issue No. 5 of the National Railway Bulletin, telling of a grade crossing accident at Harrison, AR, in which his father, an RPO clerk, was injured. Contact Don at "The Local", 1525 N. 66 Dr., Kansas City, KS 66102.

AUGUST 1990

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Last run of the Colorado Midland R.R. (1918)
5	6	7	8	9 Swiss Railway's line from Zurich to Baden began service (1847)	10 Canadian Pacific R.R. reached Calgary, Alta. on its way to the Pacific coast. (1882)	11
12 A head-on collision on Avoidance & Wooster at Valley Falls, RI, left 13 dead. (1853)	13 A small screw-up resulted in the item for this date being shown for 8-20. Oh well, nobody's perfect!	14	15 The first commercial radiotelephone call from a train was made on B&O "Royal Blue" (1947)	16 ABMT 7:30 PM	17	18
19	20 Long Island R.R. train derailed at Calverton, NY. (1921) 5 persons killed. (See 8-13)	21 Spencer Gang robbed MKT train at Obess, OK (1923)	22	23	24	25 B&O opened longest 1144' span in US (660' w/ 138' clearance) at Arthur Kill, NY (1959)
26	27	28	29	30 First railway in Argentina opened: Pangu to Floresta (1857)	31	
		TRIVIA CORNER The Colorado Midland R.R., incorporated in 1883, was the first standard-gauge line across the Colorado Rockies. After only 35 years beset with financial troubles, snowdrifts, slides, wrecks, and still DFRGW competition, the line was abandoned—most of the equipment going to the AEF military railroad in France. But business car No. 99, "Manitou," went to the Wildlife Falls Southern, thence to the M&NA (1927). In 1946 it was put on blocks in Kensett, AR, and served thereafter as a dwelling. Since June, 1990, it has been in Springdale, awaiting restoration. (HELP!)			ABMT BULLETIN BOARD Next meeting: Aug. 16, 1990 Speaker: Richard G. Keegan Topic: The Frisco's Ellsworth Branch	

CHAPTER MEMBER Mike Selligman (notice the two L's, making it SELL'ig-man) received marvelous publicity for his Mickey's Model Works at 840 N. College Ave. in Fayetteville when the Northwest Arkansas Times gave him a photo and story in its issue of July 6. Mike's program at our March meeting included numerous vintage and new model rail cars from his childhood days and his well-stocked store.

CONDENSED Birthday Greetings to chapter members Charles Coon of Rogers (July 26), Chris Lord of Springdale (Aug. 6), Bill Ussery of Springdale (Aug. 7), Bill Burk of Rogers (Aug. 19).

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RAILROADS are not just between towns. They are within towns-- or at least towns that were smart enough to retain them.

Little Rock, AR, was not smart enough to retain them.

"If we could have realized what a jewel-like system we had when Little Rock had an electric street railway, we never would have abandoned it," wrote Richard Allin in the Arkansas Gazette of April 1, 1990. "Instead we fell for the blandishments of General Motors that their buses were the latest in moving masses of people. We didn't realize at the time that the polluting diesel buses were replacing a silent and totally non-polluting people-mover. It was too late before we discovered that diesel buses were no fun to ride, but streetcars are."

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OUR GUESS IS that Dick Keegan, one of our Rogers members, may have something to say along this line when he presents the program for August. Dick has a storehouse of knowledge on the many aspects of public transit, and of how and why it fell into disuse insofar as rail transit is concerned--although it is slowly but surely coming back. In our opinion, the July 19 and August 16 meetings are not to be missed by dedicated railfans.

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Some 20 to 25 million crossties are sold to railroads every year in the United States, not to mention in other countries even more dependent on trains. And, believe it or not, old wooden ties are being recycled. Cedrite Technologies of Kansas City, KS, a subsidiary of Harmon Industries Inc. of Blue Springs, MO, uses worn-out ties to make new ones said to be more durable. For each new tie, two old ones are ground into particles. A bonding ingredient is added and the mixture is compressed into a steel mold and baked for eight hours, with a resulting tie presumably more resistant to rotting, warping and insect infestation.

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WHO'D HAVE BELIEVED, a year ago, that the Berlin wall would help to build a railway line? The East German defense minister said, a few days ago, that a contract is out for tearing down what is left of the infamous 61-mile-long barrier. The rubble will be used to build a new express track from Berlin to Hanover, West Germany.

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ENGINEER: Shall we reverse directions?
FIREMAN: Wye not?
(EDITOR: This is my last issue, anyway.)

YOUR EDITOR SOUNDS OFF... AND SIGNS OFF.

At the risk of seeming like a member of the Mutual Admiration Society, I want to thank Martin Post for his kind words in The President's Observation, on page 2. After all, he not only has served as president of the chapter from its inception but also wrote and mailed The Scrambler, or its earlier equivalent, until my relieving him of much of the editing task a year or more ago. So no one else can know quite as well what he has done for the benefit of all of us. It does not detract from his performance to say he, too, had the help of a wife--Lillian--in routine preparation of the newsletter and as a source of common-sense advice. At the chapter's annual dinner meeting last December, Martin agreed to continue as president for some three months, but that period has come and gone and we are still waiting for a volunteer replacement.

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To all fellow members, my best wishes, with a special salute to those half-dozen or more who have helped with contributions to The Scrambler. To paraphrase my fellow Oklahoman, Will Rogers, I never met a man, or a woman, in Arkansas/Boston Mountains Chapter of NRHS I didn't like.

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Membership in ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is easy.

Meetings....ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS Chapter #158 (ABMT) ... 3rd Thursday each month .. except December, annual dinner meeting. Place...Shiloh Museum's 'General Store' building, Springdale AR. Time....7:30
..... Visitors are welcome to all meetings

Dues of ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS Chapter #158 (ABMT) of The NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NRHS) consist of two parts: a) ABMT plus b) NRHS

Dues year .. January 1st thru December 31st. Half-year payment .. June 1 thru September 1. Dues are:

Regular Membership: ABMT Chap. & NRHS.....\$ 24.00; ...half-year...\$ 12.00.

Family Membership: ABMT Chap. & NRHS Family.....\$ 26.00; ...half-year...\$ 14.00.

Members of other National Chapters, become an ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS member, pay ABMT's Chapter dues: \$12.00; ...half-year: \$6.00. Please include membership number, & Chapter paying your National dues.

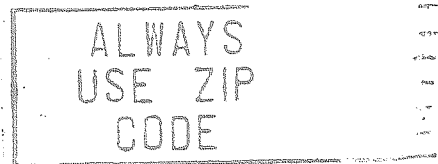
Payment to...Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter of the NRHS ... or simply .. ABMT of the NRHS.

During membership you receive copies of ABMT's newsletter .. THE SCRAMBLER & NRHS's .. NATIONAL BULLETIN.

More information call: Martin Post, Pres. 442-3686 or Bob Oswald, Nat'l Director 521-9714 .. Fayetteville

Send your Name, Address, City, State, Zip and Phone numbers (Home & Work) to:

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS Chapter
National Railway Historical Society
P.O.Box 562
Fayetteville, AR 72702-0562



Richard B. Schreiberman
601 Park Avenue
Fayetteville, AR 72701-3436