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The Scrambler

Volume 13, Number 3 -4

November-December 1999

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

The minutes of the November Meeting will be read by Chapter Secretary Ron Allen at the January 2000 meeting. Our first meeting of the new millenium is scheduled for Thursday, January 20.

From time to time your Editor has mentioned the possibility of doing a Chapter trip to see the wonderful Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum located in Cushing, Oklahoma. The museum, housed in a former Santa Fe depot moved from Yale, OK, is the work of Bob Read, his wife and his now deceased son. The museum dates to the early 1970s and houses an impressive collection of railroading that will help to explain and interpret the golden era of railroading to future generations. It was truly a magnificent collection.

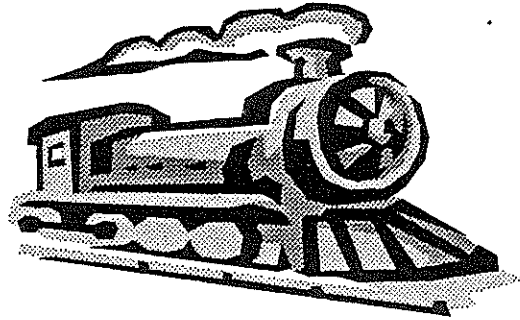
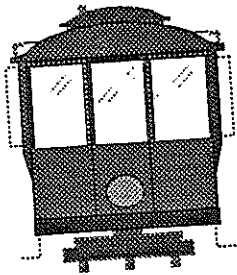
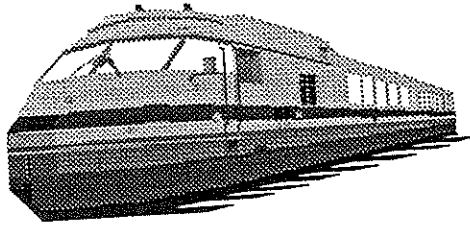
In October 1999 the Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum was burglarized. Many valuable and historic lanterns were stolen. If you become aware of unique and rare Oklahoma and Kansas railroad lanterns being offered for sale you might wish to contact the Payne County, Oklahoma Sheriff's office at 405-372-4522. Some of the missing lanterns are marked as follows: DE & G, OCAA, BE & S, NYLE&W, Southern Kansas, QA & P, VGN, MV together with locks marked for Santa Fe and Southern Kansas. Some railroad silver items are also missing.

2000 CALENDARS

I will have your AD 2000 calendars at the dinner on December 16th.

BRING MONEY!

Sweet Ol' Bob



NRHS Christmas Party
Thursday, December 16, 1999
Fred's Hickory Inn
Bentonville 6:30 PM

Entree Selection

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Grilled Chicken with Baked Potato | \$12.75 |
| 2. Parmesan Vegetable Spaghetti | \$12.75 |
| 3. Lou's Spaghetti with Meatballs | \$12.75 |
| 4. Smoked Beef or Pork Dinner | \$14.75 |
| 5. 6 oz. Boneless Grilled Pork Chop | \$14.75 |
| 6. 10 oz. Smoked Sirloin au jus | \$18.25 |

ALL PRICES INCLUDE: Mixed greens salad ,beverage (non-alcoholic) , entrée, side dish ,8.125 % sales tax and 15% gratuity. Ordering will be from this menu at Fred's. Separate Checks will be allowed. Your payment will be directly to Fred's Hickory House.

I must give an accurate guaranteed guest count 24 hours before the function. Get your reservation to Bob Hofer at 501-855-1532 by December 10. The sooner the better. If you must cancel within 24 hours of the function please notify Bob Hofer immediately. If you cancel within 24 hours of the function you will be charged \$10.00 for each no show.

Come and join us in Bentonville on December 16. It will be a fun evening starting with a veggies, cheese and dip tray prior to 6:30 PM

AMTRAK (from friends of Amtrak)

**Another Sleeper for Texas Eagle by
Ray Dunbar <rdunbar@telebot.com>**

Information obtained today (11/20) is that "as a result of strong demand for sleeping car accommodations, Amtrak is adding a second sleeping car to the California Service Texas Eagle effective November 26. At this time, the car is programmed through the holidays.

Continuation beyond that time will be determined after evaluating ridership for the holiday period. This train normally carries one sleeper, 3 coaches, a dining car and a lounge car."

I'm glad to see this news. Now lets fill em up and keep the extra sleeper past the Holidays. As most of you know this Eagle operates directly from Chicago to California. One sleeper is not enough for this train.

Amtrak's annual ridership this decade, in millions, as reported by Amtrak:[FYE 9-30]

1990	22.2	1997	20.2
1991	22.0	1998	21.1
1992	21.3	1999	21.5
1993	22.1		
1994	21.8		
1995	20.7		
1996	19.7		

AMTRAK UNVEILS NEW "PACIFIC SURFLINER" PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FOR THE CENTRAL COAST AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

New Wave of Train Service to Begin in Spring 2000

LOS ANGELES--A whole new wave in passenger rail service is heading to the shores of Southern California next spring. Amtrak will introduce the Pacific Surfliner along its San Diego to San Luis Obispo passenger rail corridor, replacing the San Diegans. More than a new brand name, the Pacific Surfliner service will feature eight new trains with improved customer amenities and upgraded stations along the route. These investments in customer service will help make Amtrak's second most popular corridor, serving 1.5 million customers, even more in demand with travelers.

In a ceremony with California Gov. Gray Davis, Amtrak's Chairman of the Board, Gov. Tommy Thompson said, "Pacific Surfliner service marks the next wave in passenger rail for the Southern California and Central Coast corridor. Amtrak's \$125 million investment in new trains is our largest single investment ever in any state, because we believe that as California's population continues to swell, passenger rail will become a solution to the state's congested highways."

Since 1990, the state of California and Amtrak have invested more than \$500 million in the Southern California and Central Coast route. The service improvements included upgraded tracks for better on-time performance, faster travel times, as well as new and refurbished stations and increased service (11 daily round trips).

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California leads a long list of states investing with Amtrak in corridor development, such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois and

Michigan that each recently announced multi-million dollar capital investments in passenger rail. The development of intercity passenger rail corridors to relieve road and airport congestion and spark downtown economic vitality is one of five components of Amtrak's business plan to make the railroad operationally self-sufficient.

"Earlier this week, the Texas Transportation Institute ranked the Los Angeles area the most gridlocked in the nation. "Amtrak believes its investment and more than \$52 million in capital this year from California will make the corridor an attractive alternative to the automobile by eventually offering faster and more frequent service," said Amtrak West President Gil Mallory.

The gleaming new trains will replace locomotives and passenger coaches that are up to 30 years old. The new five-car, double-decker trains will offer customers more reliable service. With seating for 425 people, customers will be able to choose from a variety of service levels, including reserved Pacific Business Class and coach service. In the coach-café car, customers will enjoy upgraded and healthier menu selections, featuring local wines. Business and leisure travelers can take advantage of outlets for laptop computers, relax in wide comfortable seats, gaze out the large panoramic windows, receive train information on digital

information display boards, stow luggage in large overhead compartments and easily board the train through electric sliding doors.

To complement the improved on-board service and amenities, stations are being refurbished in Santa Barbara, Surf and Goleta and automated ticket machines are being installed for greater customer convenience.

Before adopting the new brand name Pacific Surfliner, Amtrak conducted extensive market research, including focus groups. The research showed that current and potential customers from the Southern California and Central Coast regions believed that the Pacific Surfliner brand better reflected the new service than the current San Diegans name. In addition, Pacific Surfliner was found to evoke strong images of train travel, relaxation, comfort and scenery, and the personal freedom to choose how you spend your time. The teal blue Pacific Surfliner logo of a wave with a train graphic conveys the coastal route and the supreme level of service.

The first of these contemporary new trains will debut in April 2000 with all eight in service by spring 2001. Each train will be powered by new General Motors Electro-Motive Division F59PHI locomotives. The trains will be maintained in Los Angeles at Amtrak's new locomotive service center and at the passenger car and service inspection facility under construction.

Source: Amtrak - Nov. 18, 1999

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

DANGER LIGHTS

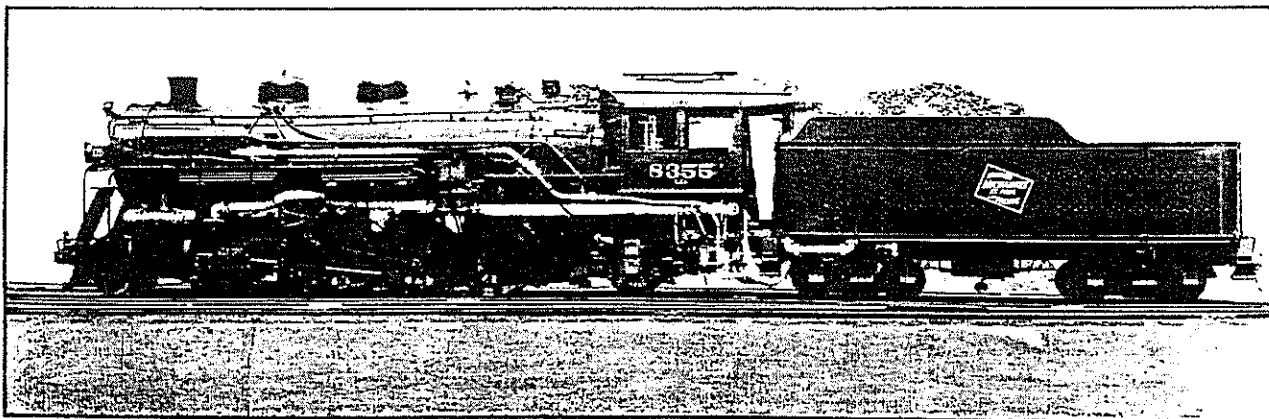
RKO Radio Pictures 1930 74 minutes

Louis Wolheim, Robert Armstrong, Jean Arthur, Hugh Herbert

Danger Lights has more realistic railroad action than almost any other movie I've seen, especially in the yards and shops. It begins with a spectacular rock slide blocking the main line of the Milwaukee Road. The railroad lingo is accurate but the off-line dialog (written by Hugh Herbert) is somewhat stilted. The crusty Division Superintendent intends to marry the heroine (Jean Arthur in one of her earliest roles) but those plans are thwarted by the arrival of a handsome boomer engineer (ah! the eternal triangle!).

The movie shows only steam locomotives, but the occasional appearance of overhead wires suggests the film was made in Harlowton, Montana, the eastern end of the Milwaukee's electric operations through the Rockies. And the topography is right. Toward the end we learn that the scheduled time to Chicago is seven hours. Actually the "Olympian" took over 30 hours to make the 1336-mile run from Harlowton to Chicago! The featured locomotives are Class L3a No. 8624, a USRA heavy 2-8-2 built by Baldwin in 1918, and Class F5a No. 6526, a Pacific 4-6-2 from the Milwaukee Shops or Alco in about 1912.

PS: Incidental comic relief is provided by a slightly pixilated hobo--old time comedian Hugh Herbert.



A sister L3a--from Baldwin, 1922

DW: 63", Cyl: 26"x30", SP: 200#, TE: 54723#, Length: 80' 8½".

RCO: 12-99

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

Chapter established November 1987

1999 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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 1999 are \$29 for individuals and \$31 for a family. 1999 dues are 50% less for members joining between June 1 and September 30. Please call 501-750-8165 for directions to the Shiloh Museum

Chapter Christmas Dinner-December 16, 1999

Time :6:30 PM Place: Fred's Hickory Inn, Bentonville Questions: Call Bob Hofer at 501-855-1532

**ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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