

The Railway
Historical



& Locomotive
Society, Inc.

Newsletter No. 17, June, 1993

Sunset Limited Trip - May 31st



Aboard AMTRAK's Sunset Limited are: Arby Vandenbossche, the tour organizer (North Florida NRHS, Southeast R&LHS); Bob Werth (North Florida NRHS); Cliff Vander Yacht (Bluewater Michigan NRHS, Southeast R&LHS); Frank Dewey's head (Southeast R&LHS); Marsha Fellows (North Florida NRHS), some passengers and Jim Smith, chairman, Southeast R&LHS. Photo by Larry Brennan, president, North Florida NRHS (Southeast R&LHS).

We gathered in the early light at AMTRAK's Clifford Lane station, waiting, for all things, a bus. Forty of us, from both the North Florida Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Southeast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, planing to ride both a bus and a train in one day. A trip to Tallahassee and back. The why, of course, was to ride AMTRAK's rela-

tively new *Sunset Limited*. To make sure we weren't stranded in Tallahassee, the bus didn't depart that station until *after* we boarded the two-hours late *Sunset Limited*, its third day out of Los Angeles and bound for Miami.

Of course, none of us had tickets (except for our host, Arby Vandenbossche), but the AMTRAK conductor had emptied the Lounge Car, so we could be together along with an apology for the inconvenience, and offered free drinks and chips. Now who in their right mind would ride in any other car, particularly when it was just ahead of the Diner? The Diner was running on Central Daylight Time, so we had to wait until 1:00PM for it to open. It was just as well as we had had two stops while riding the bus, one in Lake City for breakfast, the other in Tallahassee for a pit stop.

Dinner was good and served surprisingly well for being short-handed (not all sections of the Diner were open). Most of us visited the Coach just ahead of the Lounge Car, and the Sleeper just behind the Diner. The scenery was delightful, first with the rolling hills of Tallahassee, then the cypress swamps, followed by an interesting row of cities along the tracks. At the Olustee Battlefield, we stopped for clearance to proceed. A backing move at Jacksonville put us into the station we had earlier departed by bus.

—Cliff Vander Yacht

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS:

James A. Smith	Chairman
William F. Howes, Jr.	Vice-Chairman
Frank H. Dewey	Secretary
A. Paul Freiderich	Treasurer

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Atlanta, GA, Meeting, May 14-16

On Friday afternoon, May 14th, eight members of the Southeast Chapter began a special trip to Atlanta, GA. The primary purpose was to meet other R&LHS members (particularly those belonging to the Southeast Chapter), and to tour selected historical and railroad sites in the area.

After renting a minivan and car, we left the headquarters building of CSXT and went to Baldwin, FL, for a quick dinner stop. Of course, we also looked over the yard and noted three Southern Pacific units along with a number of CSXT engines.

Our next stop was Cordele, GA, where we spent the night. Before retiring, some of the group went downtown to the Norfolk Southern/CSXT diamond. Although we did not see any NS action, two CSXT trains went by while we were talking with the local trainmaster who had stayed late to catch up on some work. One of our members discovered that he had been recently talking with this man about a possible train movement of municipal solid waste (the new term for household trash) through Cordele. As a result, our small group talked "trash" with the trainmaster until 11:30 PM!

Our motel was approximately 80 yards from the CSXT mainline. Trees obstructed the view, but during the night we could easily hear a number of trains whistling through town.

The next morning, after a 6 AM wake-up call, we again went downtown to photograph any action and a former Delaware & Hudson unit that was still in D&H lightning stripe paint scheme. Two more CSXT trains passed by. We also checked out a former Chessie System caboose tucked away on the Cordele house track.

Our next stop was the Atlanta Cyclorama, home of the great surround painting and the **TEXAS**. The cyclorama has been recently refurbished and they have a great show. We would recommend this stop to anyone visiting Atlanta. We also met our first quest, Southeast Chapter member, Bart Bartholomai, who viewed the **TEXAS**

exhibit with us and then advised that he would meet us later for our special meeting on the **GENERAL/TEXAS**.

Lunch was at the famous **Varsity Club**. The food was good and greasy, the crowds were huge for a Saturday, and the pace was frantic. What else can be said about such a well known eatery?

Our next stop was the NRHS Atlanta Chapter's Southwestern Railway Museum at Duluth, GA. For those of you who have not visited this location, you should make it a must stop on your itinerary, particularly if they are having an "operating day".

When we arrived, they were giving rides with a black General Electric 44-tonner and three cabooses. The track completely circles their site and gives you an overview of the many cars on display. Inside the circle is one of the largest, seven-inch gauge, live steam railroads in the Southeast.

Some of the motive power running that day included a Rio Grande 2-8-2, a Rio Grand Southern 2-6-0, a RGS Galloping Goose, an early F&G (?) 4-4-0, and a generic 0-6-0. The driver of our van was about to throw everyone out and load up the RG 2-8-2, but he was persuaded at the last minute that he shouldn't do that. The ride behind these engines was great with real steam smell, smoke and cinders, and nice sounding steam whistles!

After rides behind the live steamers and on the caboose train, we headed for Kennasaw, GA, to view the **GENERAL**. Here they had a nice video of the epic Great Locomotive Chase. We had an enjoyable visit seeing some unique Civil War history.

We then checked into our motel and proceeded to Marietta, GA, where we had dinner at "T's Trackside" restaurant. Located in the Kennasaw House, or the former Marietta Hotel, this is the very building the Andrew's raiders stayed in the night before they stole the **GENERAL**. The

former hotel is located next to the Marietta train station and the restaurant is situated directly below the room occupied by James Andrews.

For train watchers, "T's Trackside" lives up to its name, since it is less than 20 feet away from CSXT's mainline running from Atlanta to Chattanooga and Cincinnati. Even though we ate in the dining room, some of our members made a "quick walk" to the front of the building every time a train went through town (four trains in 1½ hours).

Our dinner was special because we had an opportunity to meet and get to know five R&LHS members who joined us for the evening. They were: Rev. Conrad Cheatham and his wife, Mallory Ferrell, James Leshner (also a Southeast Chapter member), and Johnny Roberts.



At long last, pohdners, the June issue, thanks to the *Southeast Limited's* new editor, Clifford J. Vander Yacht.

After dinner, running a little late, we arrived at the CSXT headquarters building around 8:30. Fortunately, Bart Bartholomai was on-time and entertained our speaker, Col. James Bogle, until we arrived.

Col. Bogle brought all the history we had seen that day together with a great talk about the **GENERAL** and **TEXAS**. Special emphasis was placed on the 100th anniversary celebration run made in 1962 over the same route as the original raid. He answered our many questions and helped us understand this historical event.

After all this, Col. Bogle then proceeded to give everyone present a medallion struck especially for the April 12, 1962, commemorative of the Andrews Raid. A great day, followed by a great meeting, ending with a great gift. As the commercials say, "It doesn't get any better than this!"

The next morning saw our group visiting Howell Tower, where CSXT and NS cross just south of their respective yards. We saw approximately six trains in an hour and even got to tour the tower. This was special, since this interlocking unit was closed within the next three weeks. The switches are now thrown by the CSXT operation center in Jacksonville, FL.

While at Howell, we met local photographer Woody Harrison who showed us the back roads to CSXT's Tilford and Hulsey Yards. While at Tilford, we got to see and photograph the new EMD SD-70 demonstrator locomotives, which were touring portions of CSXT. We also saw some more SP units at the Hulsey piggyback facility.

After visiting the yards, we said good-bye to Atlanta and headed back home to Jacksonville. The members who went: Arby Vandenbossche, Larry Brennan, Frank Dewey, Richard Dickinson, Paul Freiderich, Lloyd Lewis, Mac Mitchell and Jim Smith. A special thanks should also be given to Lyle Key who planned our entire trip but was unable to attend. He did a great job! Everyone decided there was a lot more to do in Atlanta and we hope to make another trip up north soon.

—Arby Vandenbossche

—Jim Smith

Minutes of the Southeast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society

The May meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society was held in the 13th floor conference room of the CSX General Office Building on Thursday, May 13, 1993 at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present. Chapter Chairman Jim Smith chaired the meeting. The Treasurer's report showed \$681.61 in savings and \$744.04 in checking and \$43.34 in petty cash for a total of \$1468.99. The only expenditure for the month was \$50 paid to Bill Howes to hold with expenses to the National meeting in St. Louis. The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Old business -

The itinerary for the Atlanta meeting on May 14-16 was outlined by Jim Smith. The eight Jacksonville members who are going will meet at the CSXT GOB at 6:30 PM, Friday May 14. On Saturday the trip will go to view the Texas, visit the NRHS museum, view the General, have dinner and conduct a chapter meeting at the CSXT offices. On Sunday, the group will railfan around Atlanta and return to Jacksonville.

The Sunset Limited trip on May 31 will depart from the Amtrak station at 0600. Members taking the trip were encouraged to be at the station by 0530. There will be a breakfast stop at Lake City. The trip should return to Jacksonville about 2:30 PM.

The State of Florida has returned the chapter's incorporation papers and all is OK.

National has presented the chapter with the B&O Spike. It was given to Fran Dewey for safe keeping. Larry Brennan and Frank Dewey will work on the presentation to CSXT.

Bill Howes will report on the St. Louis R&LHS Annual Convention at the July meeting.

New business -

Jim Smith has received the first ad for enclosure in the **Southeast Limited** from Stickers.

Announcements -


Member Mark Hinsdale is moving to Cumberland next Monday to be Operating Superintendent of the new Cumberland Coal Business Unit of CSXT. We wish Mark best of luck and will be sure to protect his interests at future slide sales.

Larry Brennan reported the Suwanee Steam Special had thin ridership, but was successful.

The entertainment was a presentation by Lyle Key on "Something about Atlanta" with films shot by Lyle in and around the Atlanta area back in the days when.

The program for the June 10 meeting will be a video by John Humes shot in the Baltimore area and more slides. Larry and Arby will bring the refreshments. The July 8 program will be by Paul Freiderick.

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes of the Southeast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society

The June meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society was held in the 13th floor conference room of the CSX General Office Building on Thursday, June 10, 1993 at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present. Chapter Chairman Jim Smith chaired the meeting. The Treasurer's report showed \$681.61 in savings, \$766.04 in checking and \$43.34 in petty cash for a total of \$1492.99. The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Old business -

The Chapter received a letter from Conrad Chetum thanking everyone for the Atlanta meeting. Chairman Smith settled up the expenses that were shared by the attendees for the car rentals and gas. He also showed slides from high-lights of the trip. All who attended agreed it was a very good trip.

The Sunset Limited trip on May 31 was also a success with 40 people making the trip. The Chapter will receive \$60-70 as a result of our participation. This trip also as an excellent excursion. Amtrak welcomed the tour by clearing out the lounge car so the group could all be seated together. The Superliner lounge cars make great private cars.

Frank Dewey passed out a drawing on the B&O Spike that explains how it was used in the track structure. This will be part of the display to be placed in the CSXT GOB lobby.

New business -

Arby Vandenbossche announced the NRHS Chapter is touring the EMD facility on June 26 at 0930. See Arby to sign up. No cameras will be allowed in the plant.

Announcements -

The Jacksonville Maritime Museum has a new exhibit. Ed Mueller encouraged the members to drop by.

The entertainment was a video tape shot by in the Baltimore area by John Humes. The slide sale produced the new expected fun.

The program for the July 8 meeting will be a study of steam boats on the Ocklawaha River by Ed Mueller. Art Towson will bring the refreshments. The August 12 program will be by Paul Freiderick.

Respectfully submitted,



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