GM&O "Magic Switch" is First of It's Kind on American Railroads

An electronic device that automatically throws a track switch several miles away, the first installation of its kind on American railroads, has just been installed at Montgomery, Alabama. The unusual contrivance was designed as a part of a program to step up efficiency of this rapidly growing terminal. (See Above)

Like the old Latin idiom, "Necessity is the mother of invention", the idea for the use of this "electric brain" sprang from the fact that there is a considerable uphill grade to our main line at a rather inaccessible point where the spur track from the new Union Camp Corporation (Continued on Page 4)

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Freedom is Precious

"Freedom must be at all times defended, because it is at all times besought," President Lyndon B. Johnson has wisely said.

Here on the home front we can all help by buying U.S. Savings Bonds. This year, the new "Freedom Shares" provide an extra incentive to those who buy on the payroll deduction plan.

Just issued and available only to investors who regularly buy E Bonds on a payroll deduction plan or on a bond-a-month plan at their bank or who set up such programs now, the new "Freedom Bonds" offer a 4.74 yield over the next 4½ years. Thus, the regular buyer of E Bonds, which grow at the rate of 4.15 per cent when held to their 7-year maturity, get in on a real opportunity.

As an example, this means that if you are buying an $117.75 E bond once a month, you will also be able to buy a $20.25 freedom share bond. The E bond will be worth $25 in 7 years; the $20.25 freedom bond will be worth $25 in 4½ years.

In cooperation with the National Savings Bond Campaign being held in July, your railroad will be glad to make deductions through the payroll plan for any purchases you may authorize.

Glen Brock
President

Outstanding Railroader

C. W. Esh, Chief Mechanical Officer, will be honored on November 21 by the Car Department Association of St. Louis for his significant contributions to the railroad industry, especially the mechanical department.

The award is the highest recognition the Association can bestow upon an individual and will be conferred at the 30th annual Honor Night dinner.

Fourth Paper Mill

The fourth large paper mill to be built on our railroad in recent months was announced by West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company on May 24 for Weyauwega, Ky. Construction will begin this summer with start up set for the spring of 1976.

The $90,000,000 mill will produce 600 tons of bleached pulp and 550 tons of printing and business papers a day. Union Camp Corporation dedicated its new $60,000,000 mill on our line at Montgomery on May 26. St. Regis Paper Company's $120,000,000 paper making complex will come on stream near Monticello, Miss., on our Railroad, later this year.

The Weyerhaeuser Company has announced another big one for Columbus, Mississippi, on the GM&O.
Union Camp Dedicates New $50,000,000 Mill on GM&O

Attending the ceremonies from GM&O with President Glen Brock were from left to right: Vice President T. T. Martin (Industrial Development); Superintendent R. C. Thomas (Texas); Division Freight Traffic Manager William E. Bond (Ft. Madison); General Freight Traffic Manager W. B. Pidgeon; Vice President E. C. W. Willows, Traffic and Executive Vice President and General Manager E. V. Olds.

A rolling hill overlooks the plant, which will receive more than 14,000 cords of wood each year and ship more than 3,000 carloads of pulpwood from the site. A crowd watches the dedication.

GM&O President Glen Brock arrives at the dedication site on the mill grounds with Union Camp executives. Alexander Whiteside, Jr., left, and Executive Vice President Thomas T. Dunn (center).

Plant Manager James E. Buschpiller introduces GM&O President Brock.

Although Governor Lurleen B. Wallace1 cuts the ribbon that officially opens the new mill, local officials are at the side as spectators, which would produce the line of honor. Union Camp President Whiteside, right, and Camp series happy.

The men who coordinate the transportation plans of Union Camp Transportation Corporation are, left to right: James H. McGee, New York (left) and Ronald K. Lankford, President Union Camp Transportation Corporation (right).
New Parts Buying Idea of GM&O
Expected To Set Industry Pattern

An idea of the Gulf Mobile and Ohio Railroad to have spare repair parts delivered with its new freight cars is expected to set a new pattern in railroad equipment buying.

The buying precedent was established on a recent order of 300 new box cars we purchased from the Bessemer, Alabama, plant of Pullman-Standard, one of the nation's largest railroad equipment builders. Scarce replacement parts that past experience showed would be needed later on were included with the delivery. "As far as I know, this is the first time one of our railroad customers has purchased parts on the basis of future repairs," R. E. Schroeder, Pullman-Standard vice-president says.

GM&O President Glen Brock points out two railroad advantages that result from the unusual buying procedure: (1) disabled cars are returned to productive service faster because hard-to-get parts are always on hand, and (2) the replacement parts cost less.

Pullman-Standard likes the idea, too. The Company explains that manufacturing the original and the spare parts together reduces "costly manufacturing setups and lags in production schedules, and also permits more economical material purchases."

The idea to buy the spare parts along with the cars, came to officials of our Mechanical Department when they saw damaged cars, that cost between $10,000 and $25,000 each, standing idle on repair tracks waiting for hard-to-get replacement parts.

They reasoned that if the car builders would make an additional supply of parts at the same time they were manufacturing those for the new cars, this delay would be eliminated and the cars could get back into service hauling money-making loads. Another advantage they foresaw was that these parts could also be used to repair previously purchased cars.

Appraising the idea Railway Purchases and Stores Magazine in a recent article on the subject said, "It appears that GM&O has done more than find a way to reduce costs. There's also the added value of getting disabled cars back into service quicker than ever before, and it may start some thinking about other exceptions to the railroads' shrinking inventories."

Miss Whitlow
Valedictorian

Linda Whitlow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bransford Whitlow, graduated on May 31 as valedictorian of her class at Jackson (Tennessee) High School. The attractive young lady, whose father is Assistant to President of the GM&O Railroad and President of the Gulf Transport Company, led senior students with a grade average of 95.84 and was also the top scholar in her junior year.

A National Merit Scholarship finalist, Miss Whitlow writes her school's weekly column in the Jackson Sun, is president of Mu Alpha Theta, secretary-treasurer of the Science Club, a member of National Honor Society and has been a staff reporter for the Monthly Tailer during her junior and senior years.

She has been a member of the Pre-Med Club, Spanish Club, Junior Red Cross and National Thespian Society. She plans to attend Sweet Briar College in Virginia. Linda is president of the Youth Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church and sings in the church choir.

Letter From Viet Nam

Brakeman James Gearhart of the Murphyboro District writes from the Makon Delta in Viet Nam to ask Superintendent S. G. Thomson "how railroad ing has been".

"Most of our action is from snipers hiding in the jungle... a few of my buddies have been wounded, but so far I have been lucky," his interesting letter relates. Mr. Gearhart asked to be remembered to his buddies and said he was looking forward to the end of his tour of duty when "I can get back to railroad ing."

Loran (Larry) S. Hickman Jr., Manager of Resources and Industrial Development, has been elected to membership in the Society of Industrial Realtors.

Customer Composes Song About GM&O

Harold Hull of the Valley Steel Products Company of Carlinville is a railroad fan and an admirer who has always thought that GM&O should have a railroad song written about it.

Here is his composition with a suggestion to Agent M. F. Laughlin to "get out your old banjo on these warm June evenings and strike out a little tune for the following lines." After laboring long and diligently at composing the lyrics, Mr. Hull says, "I found to my great astonishment, that we have no musicians at our plant."

Oh, the GM&O Is a mighty fine road To haul your carcass Or tote your load The Abraham Lincoln And the Limited too Will get you there Before you are due The food is fine The ride is grand Your every wish Is their command So, from North to South Or East to West The GM&O Will serve you best And, while there trains Go flashing by To meet your needs They will always try

In Memorium

We wish to thank the many friends of our brother, Roy Williams, who were so thoughtful during our recent bereavement.

His association with you and his work for the GM&O were his life.

Ralph Williams
Clara Newlin
Eva Williams
Wish 50 Year Veteran Well in Retirement

Friends of Mechan- cal Foreman E. W. Lockenwitz gathered in the locker room at Alton to wish him well in his retirement and to help him celebrate the completion of fifty years of service that started as a messenger boy at Bloomington, and all with the GM&O. Agent Bob Powles has a token of apprecia- tion from them in his hand to present to Mr. Locken- witz (second from left). Beside them are General Foreman T. R. Long and Yardmaster T. R. Wulf. Standing behind are some of the 25 friends and fellow workers of the Alton-Wood River and Venice terminals who were present.

“MAGIC SWITCH”
(Continued from Page 1)

pulp and paperboard mill joins it about 19 miles northeast of the city.

Traffic between the downtown West End Yard and the mill is heavy. This im- portant customer gets 14,000 carloads of wood each year and has about 6,000 car- loads of outbound paper and board annually. Our tracks provide the only rail service.

Stopping these heavy mill trains on the uphill main grade to throw the switch poses an efficient operation that Executive Vice President and General Manager B. V. Bodie felt needed correcting. W. D. Archer, Chief Signal and Communications Officer, of Bloomington, Illinois, and W. S. (Bill) Pipas, Assistant to General Man- ager, both graduate electrical engineers, assumed responsibility for the job.

Through an idea borrowed from the Chicago Transit Authority, and with the assistance of the General Railway Signal Company, they worked out a dual system of control for the switch.

In one operation, the train itself ac- tivates the switch several miles from the turnout point. In another, the switch can be thrown remotely from Tuscola, Al- bany, 93 miles away.

In the former case, a tuned, inert loop, positioned beneath the caboose that reg- ularly make the mill run, is sensed by an electronic device located between the tracks about six miles from the turnout. As the caboose enters the inert loop, the switch is automatically thrown, and signals are cleared for the route into the Union Camp mill.

In the latter instance, the dispatcher at Tuscola has a control panel on which is displayed the section of track over which this operation takes place and, by lights in the track diagram on the con- sole panel, he can watch the operation as it takes place automatically; however, when desired, he may take over the con- trol of the signal system.

This unique signal system, which is a modified form of the Traffic Control Sys- tem used elsewhere on our railroad, has greatly added to the efficiency of this bustling Montgomery yard.

Wins Distinctive Award

Carol Croft, whose father is a Conductor on the Murphysboro District, was selected by the faculty of the Tamms, Illinois High School as the recipient of the Daughters of American Revolution Award.

Her qualities of leadership, dependabil- ity, service and patriotism were judged the highest. Miss Croft, who will attend Southern Illinois University in the fall, was class president, varsity cheerleader, a member of the annual staff, President of the Beta Club and a librarian.

Secretary is Club Officer

Catherine Bass, Secretary in the Bir- mingham Traffic Office, has been honored by the Railroad Chief Clerk Club with the election to the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

Save Boy on Tracks

Engineer E. Litwitz and Yardman R. M. Wozniak saw a two year old boy play- ing on the main line in the vicinity of Glenn Yard and through their alertness, and quick action on the part of Mr. Litwitz, the train was stopped before striking the boy.

Mr. Wozniak took the boy off the tracks and returned him home to his parents. Both were commended by the management for their quick actions.

Heads Transportation Club

Commercial Agent Paul Johnson of the Chicago Traffic office has been elected President of the Transportation Club of Will County, Joliet and other Will County locations are in his territory.

It was not a birthday, but a very im- portant day when J.B. Cole cut this cake. He was retiring as Freight Agent at Mer- dine, Mississippi after 45 years of rail- roading. He'll use his new fishing rod and reel, a present from fellow employees, in his new role as a man of leisure.