Messages from President Darren Doss... The 27th Annual Meeting of the Society is only a few weeks away. I would like to extend a personal invitation from the Board of Directors to every member to attend this memorable weekend. This is especially true for all members in central Illinois and the entire midwest.

Important Notice: The Ramada Inn in Bloomington, IL. has changed its name to the Empire Inn. All other information, address and phone number, remain the same. If you have already booked your room reservation directly with the motel, there is no need to worry. Remember, nothing has changed but the name.

The 27th Annual Meeting of the GM&O Historical Society will be held on Saturday, November 6, 1999 at the Empire Inn (formerly the Ramada Inn), 1219 Holiday Lane, Bloomington, IL. 61704, The motel sits on the frontage road on the north east corner of the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Illinois Rt. 9 on the east side of Bloomington. Please see the enclosed green showbill and tan banquet/tour reservation form for additional details and please use the following checklist to help with your Annual Meeting preparations.

A) ______ Banquet and Tour Reservation Form, Please register as soon as possible for both functions. This is always a great help to the Annual Meeting Committee. Please use the enclosed tan banquet and tour reservation form and mail to: GM&OHS Banquet c/o Trent Johnson, RR#1, Box 124, Bloomington, IL. 61704

B) ______ Railroadiana Show Table Reservations, Please reserve your tables by using the enclosed bright green table reservation form. Over half of the tables have been spoken for to date so get your table reservations as soon as possible. Whether you have slides, pictures, railroad antiques or models, this show is for you!

C) ______ Annual Model Display, This event is open to all GM&OHS members who wish to display their models. This is not a contest but rather an opportunity for anyone who models the GM&O to share their skills and modeling techniques with others. All scales are welcome. The only requirement is that the model be of a GM&O or predecessor road subject.

D) ______ Friday Night Hospitality Suite, On Friday night, November 5th, the Society is sponsoring an informal get-together at the Empire Inn. This function costs nothing but your time and is a great way of visiting with old acquaintances and making new friends. The exact room location will be posted in the hotel lobby.

E) ______ Motel Reservations, Please make your room reservations directly to the Empire Inn, 309-662-5311. When making your reservation, please remember to mention that you are with the GM&OHS so that you will receive the special reduced room rate.

F) ______ 2000 Election Ballot, Enclosed with this mailing is your ballot for the election of officers and directors to serve on the Board of Directors for 2000. It is important that you take this opportunity to cast your ballot for the individuals that you think will do the most competent job running your Society during the upcoming year. It only takes a couple of minutes but means a great deal to all.
A Special Note of Thanks to Herb Kern and the Lionel Operating Train Society for their generous donation to the Society. It is very much appreciated. For those of you that attended last year's Annual Meeting in Mobile, Herb was the individual most responsible for the outstanding Lionel modular layout that was available for all to see in the motel atrium area. Thanks Herb!

In Memorium... The Society wishes to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Hal Finley of Springfield, IL. Mr. Finley was 94 when he passed away on August 3, 1999. He had been a lifelong fan of the GM&O and a member of the Society almost from its inception.

An open letter to the Membership from President Darren Doss... During the past five plus years, I have had the pleasure of working with one of the finest Publication Committees in the historical society field. In this period, they have published over 400 pages of the GM&OHS NEWS and have missed a mailing deadline only once by a mere three weeks. In addition to this fact, we the members of the GM&OHS have been able to enjoy a balanced variety of articles from both the Northern and Southern Regions of the railroad. The photo selection has been outstanding with an emphasis on publishing the most unique color pictures in any periodical of this type. More to the point, the articles have been well copy edited, accurate and published without redundancy. My personal thanks and congratulations to Publication Committee Chairman Dave Wagner and his two primary copy editors, Gene Glendinning and Bob Oliver. A special note of thanks to the many authors who graciously submitted their articles for publication and allowed the staff to "cross the t's and dot the i's" where necessary.

Recently however, there has been a handful of individuals who have used the internet as well as word of mouth to spew their venom about the Society and more specifically the Publication Committee. Unlike the previous ad hoc group that existed, the current committee is on time with the publication, the magazine is readable, understandable and the articles are not wallowed in railfan rumors or non-pertinent jibberish.

Gentlemen, if you are aware of an error in the calendar or magazine, write the Publication Committee a letter rather than criticizing their efforts in a back biting manner. By doing this, you will not only set the record straight for the current membership but will also have the ability to make sure that future generations of GM&O fans have correct information. To date, though you have spoken of a few errors in captioning, we have not received a correspondence from any of you concerning a correction. Please make your efforts positive, not negative.

In closing, I would like to state that the Publication Committee has the full support of the Board of Directors and our thanks for a job well done!
Publication Committee Report by Dave Wagner... Enclosed with this issue of the Autumn Switchlist is Double Issue 91-92 of the NEWS. Our thanks to authors Ken Donnelly, Darren Doss and Bob Schramm for the fine articles that lie between the covers. Thanks also to John Arnold, Dennis and Charles Conniff, John Furst, Joe Petric and Dick Wallin for opening up their photo files so we could enjoy the great variety of color contained within the pages of this issue and special thanks to Bill Crabtree and Melvin Mowrer for sharing their railroad memories with the membership.

Issue 93 of the NEWS and your 2000 calendar are scheduled for mailing in mid-December along with your Winter Switchlist. Issue 93 will contain a fascinating feature by noted author Louis Saillard on the 50th anniversary of the GM&O's conversion from steam to diesel as well as the first installment on the GM&O's green box car fleet by Ken Donnelly. Front and rear color covers as well as a color centerspread featuring a Gulf Transport vehicle will make this magazine another one to proudly add to your archives.

I will be stepping down as Publication Committee Chairman when my term as Vice President expires on December 31, 1999. Bob Alkire will be taking over as Editor of the NEWS and since Jeff Blackwood is running unopposed as Vice President it appears at this time that he will be Chairman of the Publication Committee. I have been working with both of these fine individuals for the past year to assure a smooth transition from the current committee to a new one under Jeff's leadership. I'll use the Winter Switchlist to thank all the people that have made the last five plus years for the Society so successful but at this time I would like to thank President Darren Doss for his full support during this period. Thanks "Darn"!

Modeling Committee Report by the staff... A big "thank you" to all the members who placed orders for the Society "what if" model. If everything holds to plan, these cars should be shipped, on time, in early November.

Though we received a substantial number of orders, it was obvious that several of our regular supporters did not purchase any of this "what if" series. Upon investigation, we were told the primary reason for the non-sale was that the membership has become use to prototypically correct models and that is what they expect the Society (and other manufacturers) to produce on a regular basis. Rest assured, we hear, we understand and we will comply. In the future, all GM&OHS models produced by the Society will be as prototypically accurate as possible by making use of the currently available freight equipment on the market.

The Modeling Committee has also been working with Proto 2000 on a major project directly related to the GM&O. If P2K's timetable holds true to form, all of you attending the National Model & Hobby Show in late October at Rosemont, IL. will be pleasantly surprised by what you find at Proto's booth. Stay tuned to this column for further details.
TRADE TABLE

FOR SALE: Slides, negatives, back issues of Trains, Railfan, PRN, X2200S, The Short Line, C&NWHS/LE&NHS/GM&OHS NEWS, etc. For lists, send 8x10 envelope with 3 units of postage and mention GM&OHS. WANTED: Current timetables, track charts from any line, blue globe kerosene lamp and any marked globe. T.N. Colbert, 4512 Pinewood Lane, Allison Park, PA 15101, E-Mail: WABMLV@juno.com.

FOR SALE: Color slides of GM&O and most other railroads. Incredibly massive selection (size does matter!) of diesel, steam, electric, cabooses, freight and passenger cars. See before you buy! List for SSAE. Wallin's Approval Slides, P.O. Box 1784, Springfield, IL 62705

FOR SALE: HO-scale GM&O custom decals for first generation diesels (all color schemes) and passenger cars (all color schemes and car types including car names). Send SSAE for list. David Johnston, 3955 Muirfield Dr., Memphis, TN. 38125, 901-737-7345

FOR SALE: Custom painted models; Walthers GM&O FA1 $79.95, Athearn GM&O F7A (constant reversing lighting) $85.00, Athearn GM&O GP38-2 $101.50, and more. For complete list contact S&J Custom Models, 71 Criswell, Lucedale, MS. 39452-3487, 601-766-0055, web page http://sjmodels.railfan.net/

WANTED: Track charts, condensed profiles, engineering and signalling plans, station maps, blueprints, technical info, misc. paper. Dave Cramer, 2114 Sheridan Drive, Madison, WI. 53704, 608-244-2916, E-Mail: Trainsite@aol.com

FOR SALE: Unissued/unused GM&O Gulf Division employee timetable #1, dated May 31, 1970. Perfect condition, covers all former GM&W lines. $5.00 ea. or five for $20.00. Timetables from assorted ICG divisions and other roads. Limited supply and priced to sell. Large SSAE. Wayne Kiser, 1004 Ingram, Philadelphia, MS. 39350

WANTED: Original Howard Fogg Train Paintings, oil or watercolor, GM&O preferred, all roads wanted. John Atherton, 16 Coachlight Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-4241, 914-471-8152, E-Mail: JJAAMAPOU@aol.com

WANTED: ICHS IC Athearn covered hopper set. TRADE: Overland IC GP10 unptd. for Overland IC GP10 w/"frog eyes". Lonnie Bathurst, 510 N. State St., Litchfield, IL 62056, 217-324-3203(days), 217-324-2044(night)

FOR SALE: Back Issues of GM&OHS NEWS, Issue no.1 $20.00/Issue nos. 2,4,5,6,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,31,35 $6.00 ea./Double Issue nos. 24-25, 36-37 $8.00 ea. Prices include postage. James L. Windmeier, 1425 Elmdale Ave., Chicago, IL 60660

FOR SALE: Modeling the GM&O, Vol. I and II, 25 cars in each book. $15.00 each postage paid. GM&O custom decals for revenue and work equipment available in HO or N scale. For free information, write or call Trent Johnson, RR #1, Box 124, Bloomington, IL. 61704, 309-378-2951

The Switchlist is a quarterly publication of the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Historical Society Inc. and is provided as a benefit of membership. The Switchlist is produced for the purpose of increasing communication between members and is edited, except where noted, by Darrell Does, President. Members with information suitable for publication in the Switchlist should forward it to GM&OHS, Switchlist, P.O. Box 2657, Joliet, IL 60434.