Switchlist

GULF MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Messages from President David Bridges

Let me begin by thanking all of you who wrote or e-mailed after my first Switchlist. Thanks for all the kind comments and offers of support. I hope that my service as President will live up to your wishes and expectations.

Secretary Ken Donnelly has reported to me that 50 Society members renewed their membership in the “Sustaining Member” category. On behalf of the Society, I would like to offer a very big “Thank you!” to those members for giving us a little bit of extra help. In these days of rising costs for just about everything, the Society can use all the help it can get. These members will be recognized in the final issue of the NEWS for this year.

The Society receives a number of requests from people searching for information about relatives who worked for the GM&O or its predecessors. As much as we would like to help, unfortunately not many personnel records were preserved, and so often there is little that we can do to help. Often whatever information is available comes from other types of records, such as train movement records. This means that even though there are a lot of names, they are not organized such that it is easy to locate a specific person. For some railroad trades, such as m.o.w. workers, I’m not sure if any detailed personnel records survive. I am not pointing this out in order to discourage you from sending in requests for information. Please continue to do so, keeping in mind that it will be a very “hit-or-miss” proposition, and (regrettably but unavoidably) often a “miss.”

2000 Annual Fall Meeting

The 2000 Annual Fall Meeting of the GM&OHS will be held in Jackson, Mississippi on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Coliseum Hotel and Convention Center (formerly the Coliseum Ramada Inn, soon to be the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center at the Coliseum). A flyer was enclosed with the last mailing, and you should be receiving a second flyer soon along with a special invitation from the Jackson Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. This will be the first time the fall meeting has ever been held in Jackson. The Coliseum Hotel will be an excellent location for the event. It is located approximately 1 block from the old Jackson GM&O depot, which now houses the offices of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A tour of the depot is in the works; look for details when you get to Jackson. A new feature of the fall meeting, also currently in the planning stages, is an afternoon modeler’s workshop, where Society members who may not be interested in the depot tour can get together to discuss their GM&O and other modeling projects. On this subject, be sure to note that the Modeler’s Contest has been reinstated for the fall meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Of further interest to modelers is the opportunity to visit the N-gauge layout of the Jackson Society of Model Engineers. This group is building a rather large layout in the Metrocenter shopping center, representing the GM&O and other lines in the Jackson area. They will be having a workday on the day of the GM&OHS meeting in Jackson, and Society members and friends are invited to come out and see the layout. The JSME is particularly interested in “picking the brains” of GM&OHS members in order to make their layout as historically accurate as possible. Look for more information on this event when you get to the meeting in Jackson. For advance information, contact Rev. Bill Senter at 601-878-2468 or william.r.senter@rirt.com and he will be glad to answer your questions.

Officer and Board of Directors Elections

Enclosed in this mailing is the ballot for the election that will choose our secretary, treasurer, and all five directors for 2001. Please take a few minutes to mark your ballot and return it to the Society. If you mail it in, it must be received by Friday, October 28. If you choose to bring your ballot to the fall meeting, it must be turned in at the Society table at the swap meet no later than 2:00 p.m..

Spring 2001 Railroadiana Show and Sale

For those who possibly have not heard the news, the annual Spring Show and Sale in Springfield, IL is no more. Dick Wallin has retired from the running the show, and the Holiday Inn in which the show was held for many years has been torn down. However, not to fear! The Society’s spring show will go on, but, as they say, “under new management.” Plans are almost complete for the Spring 2001 Show and Sale to be held in St. Louis, Missouri. Ken Donnelly has done quite a bit of work on this meet already, and it should be a good one. The show will be held on April 22, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Southwest / Viking Conference Center, located at 10709 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. This location is very close to the junction of Interstates 270 and 44. If you plan to stay at the hotel and
wish to make reservations, the number is 314-821-6600. Be sure to mention the GM&OHS for the special rate, and if there are any questions, ask to speak with Deb Garland. The proposed meet on the south end is somewhat less definite, due in some measure to the effort required for the Jackson meeting, which I’m in charge of. We will keep you posted...

**GM&O F-units On The Move**

Those of you who subscribe to the GM&O e-mail list have seen the news this spring and summer of the move west and south of former GM&O F3A and F7A units. Thirteen of these units were rebuilt into FP10’s at the Paducah shops in 1979 and sent to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, where they were placed into commuter service. They were later retired and sat in the dead line for some time. However, this year several of these units were purchased by the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation and repainted for three of Rio Grande Pacific’s railroads, New Orleans & Gulf Coast (NO&GC), Idaho Northern and Pacific (IN&P), and Nebraska Central (NC). Former GM&O F3A’s 801B and 803A are now NO&GC 1106 and 1106, 806B and 808B are now IN&P 1112 and 1108, and 885A is now NC 1150 (note that all of these units retained their MBTA numbers). All of these units were repainted in Corry, PA and then moved to the Nebraska Central shops in Grande Isle, Nebraska for mechanical work. Of particular interest is the fact that the NO&GC units are to be used in excursion service, beginning in September or soon thereafter.

**Wilmington Depot Preservation**

A group in Wilmington, Illinois is working to preserve the former Chicago & Alton depot in Wilmington. This 1869 depot is believed to be the third-oldest depot in Illinois. The group is very close to raising the amount necessary to save this historic structure. A flyer for the project is included in this mailing. Please take a minute and consider what you can do to help save this priceless link to our railroad heritage.

**In Memoriam...**

The Society wishes to express its condolences to the families and friends of two longtime members and a life member who passed away recently. These were Joe Ramia of Meridian, MS, who passed away on March 9, 2000, and William Henze, who passed away on June 3, 2000. Life member Charles D. Mayer passed away last winter.

**Pulpwood Car Project Update**

The previous column on the GM&O General Steel Casting pulpwod cars generated a number of responses – and one correction: only one of the four cars at Abbeville, MS has been donated to the Society (our choice of the four). Some of the discussion on the e-mail list centered around the projected move of this car from Abbeville, Mississippi to Mobile. Since the track has been taken up south of Oxford, MS on the former Illinois Central line, to move this car by rail would require hauling it north to the BNSF at Holly Springs, then west to Memphis, then south to Jackson on the IC, then to Hattiesburg and over the former Bonhomie & Hattiesburg Southern and GM&N line to Mobile. The complexity of this move (and the friction-bearing trucks) have led to the conclusion that a truck move would be much easier. Some initial estimates of the cost have been made, but more work needs to be done. I have contacted the owner of the cars, Pioneer Railcorp, and have been assured that we have plenty of time to make arrangements for a move. If you would like to see one of these cars “come home,” please send a donation to the Society. Make your check payable to the GM&OHS, and label the check “pulpwood car.” As was the case with the 631 Fund, contributions to the Pulpwood Car Fund will be tax-deductible. Of related interest is the fact that the Mississippi Central, the Pioneer shortline that is operating the former IC line between Oxford and Holly Springs, has renovated four of the old GM&O pulpwod cars and is using them in captive service on the MC.

**Modeling Committee News**

Despite the dire predictions concerning “Y2K,” the year 2000 is turning out to be a banner year for GM&O modelers, with no less than three GM&O-prototype diesels being released in HO this year. Even as this column is being written, the Proto 2000 FA1 and FB1 sets are hitting the hobby shop shelves. Two FA1 units, nos. 741 and 750, and two FB1 units, nos. B9 and B13, are being produced and sold as AB sets, with both units being powered. These units have the high nose headlight and all-black grabirons. The FB1 units have the small 3-inch numbers over the truck centers. Members of the Society worked with Life-Like to produce these units, and early reports are that they are very good.
Second, Atlas has announced the release of a GM&O GP38. Two GP38 units, nos. 709 and 713, and an unnumbered unit are to be produced. The unnumbered unit will allow modelers to add other GP38’s, including GP38AC units, to their rosters. The GP38AC units were identical in construction and paint to the original GP38’s. These engines are due out in September. Atlas worked with the Society on these units, so they should be correct. The Society’s web site (www.gmohs.org) has more details on these units. Of related interest, Atlas is going to release these units in one other paint scheme – the New England Central. Why is that of interest to the GM&O community? Because all of the NEC GP38’s are former GM&O GP38’s! Strange, but true...

Third, Stewart has announced the release of GM&O F3 A&B units by the end of the year. The A-units are Phase I F3’s with the Phase II paint scheme (red and maroon, with a wide red band). The B-units are Phase I units. Both the A- and B-units will be unnumbered, allowing modelers to add any GM&O F3 combination to their rosters. Yes indeed, a very good year for the GM&O modeling community. Now, who’s going to do a red-and-maroon RS3 – or better yet, a red-and-white DL109?

As reported in the last Switchlist, the Official GM&OH Car #21 is the Bowser ACF 70-ton 2-bay hopper car with the “Billboard” lettering scheme. This project is going very well – orders have been good and the models should be shipped very soon. If you haven’t ordered yours yet, there’s still time – we’ve even included a flyer in this mailing for your convenience!

On the subject of Society cars, the Society has a number of previously-released cars on inventory:

- Car #18 Mill gondola
- Car #20 “What If” 40-ft box car
- Car #19 Tank car
- Special issue Intermountain PS-1 50’ box car

Car #20 is $20 each; the other cars are $15 each or $55 for a set of 4. If you would like to purchase any of these, send your order to the Secretary at the Society’s P.O. box. Make your checks payable to “GM&OHS” and please include $3 for shipping.

The Society is considering the release of an O-scale hopper car by Weaver. Because of the size of the order that would be required, pre-orders would probably be necessary. If you are interested in the Society pursuing this issue further, please drop Modeling Committee member Brian Johnston a line at One Track Mind, P. O. Box 1353, Hartselle, AL 35640. Note that this is not a call for pre-orders but merely a poll to gauge the interest level.

Book Project
There is a strong possibility of an all-color GM&O freight car book in the near future. If you want to contribute (and we could use all the photos we can get), send a list of photos or slides that you feel are either rare, old, or especially well photographed to: GM&OHS Book Project, P.O. Box 2457, Joliet, IL 60434. Dick Wallin and Four Ways West, the company that published Dick’s color book on the GM&O, will be handling the details. Please note that this is a request for a list of photos or slides; you will be contacted later regarding the actual use of the material.

Information, Please
Another item of interest concerning a “former GM&O” engine popped up this summer. The Kosciusko & Southwestern is a new shoreline in Mississippi that has purchased the former IC line between Aberdeen Junction and Kosciusko and will begin freight operations soon (they’ve been doing motor-car excursions for some time now). The K&SW recently purchased a 45-ton GE diesel. This is a 300 HP unit, Class B-90/90-2GE733, and was built in October of 1942. It was delivered to the ammunition plant in Prairie, Miss. as USA Gulf Ordnance #503. It was later renumbered to US Army #7327. When the base was sold to the City of Aberdeen, the engine was included. Visible under the paint is AIR FORCE and CONOCO. Why it might be of interest to the Society is that it has “GM&O” stenciled on the cab side and on the trucks. Can anyone out there give us any information about this unit, in particular why it might have GM&O lettering? If you can, please drop us a note at the Society’s address, and we’ll see that it gets forwarded to the K&SW (and published in the Switchlist as well). To see a picture of this engine, visit the K&SW website at www.ksry.com/locomotives.htm (while you’re there, take a look around – it’s quite a good site with quite a bit of information). Thanks to Richard Spencer, VP of the K&SW, for the information on this unique engine.
# TRADE TABLE / INFORMATION WANTED

**FOR SALE:** Slides, negatives, back issues of Trains, Railfan, PRN, X2200S, The Short Line, C&NWHS / L&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 WA8MLV@juno.com

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

**FOR SALE:** Custom painted models; Walthers GM&O FAI $79.95, Atheam GM&O F7A (constant reversing lighting) $85.00, Atheam 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://sijmodels.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:** Two mint Alton Limited Con-Cor N scale sets (wall inserts). Set includes heavy Pacific plus six cars. Never run. $200.00 for perfect set, $150.00 for set w/broken railing on tender. Money orders please. Frank Vozak, 804 S. Humphrey Ave., Oak Park, IL. 60304-1719

**FOR SALE:** Unissued/unused GM&O Gulf Division employee timetable #1, dated May 31, 1970. Perfect condition, covers all former GM&O 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, 211-324-3203 (days), 217-324-2044 (night)

**WANTED:** Waybills, receipts, and/or other paperwork regarding shipments made by Gullett and Sons florist in Lincoln, NE on the GM&O. Contact: Bruce D. Williams, 2516 Amber Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-3318

**WANTED:** GM&O or IC Fairmont motor Car to restore. Preferably an M9, M19 or S2 with a single cylinder Fairmont motor. Darren Doss, 212 Chivers Dr. Union City, TN. 38261, 901-885-5693, ddoss@usit.net

**FOR TRADE:** High quality original 35mm color slides of locomotives from many RRs. Slides date from around 1980 to present. I will trade 1 for 1, original for original for other high-quality slides. George Horna, 405 Saratoga St., Elburn, IL. 60119

**WANTED:** Illinois Central Gulf memorabilia. Timetables, magazines and books from ICG, patches, etc. Looking to buy or trade for ICG slides/photos. Contact: Tom Mann, 120 Carolyn Circle, Bristol, TN 37620 or (423) 274-9804, e-mail tomnnn@aol.com

**WANTED:** GM&O, IA, Southern and other rail historical association publications, annual reports, employee magazines and company publications. Buying collections. $0.99 LSAE for list of extras. Paul Gibson, 11 Downingwood Drive, Franklin, MA 02038.

---

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 David Bridges, President. Members with information suitable for publication in the Switchlist should forward it to GM&OHS, Switchlist, P.O. Box 2457, Joliet, IL 60434.