Messages from the President... The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society is scheduled for the weekend of October 15-17, 2004 in Memphis, TN. The event will be held at the Hilton Hotel (formerly the Park Vista), 939 Ridge Lake Blvd., Memphis, TN. 901-762-7401. Special discounted room rates are available for GM&OHS members. Please contact the hotel direct and mention that you are with the Society to receive the reduced rate.

We are pleased to announce that this Annual Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Louisville and Nashville Historical Society's Annual Fall Event. We are looking forward to a very well attended function. Please see the enclosed three forms: Banquet reservation(tan), dealer table(blue) and general information(pink) for specific details.

The weekend begins with a hospitality suite on Friday night. This is an event that is open to all members of the GM&OHS and L&NHS as well as the general public and it is free of charge. All that we ask you to bring is yourself and a willingness to have a great time. A slide show as well as other features will be offered. Soft drinks and light snacks will be available.

Saturday starts off with the joint swap meet. Both the GM&OHS and the L&NHS will share one venue! A great way of doubling your fun. Various clinics and the GM&OHS Model Display will be held during the course of the day. The Bluff City Region-SER/NMRA will also hold their annual model contest. Both of these are great opportunities to display your prize engine, car, caboose or structure. Just a reminder, though this is a GM&OHS/L&NHS sponsored show, we welcome items from all railroads. Doors open to the public at 9am sharp and the swap continues through 3pm.

Saturday evening will commence at 6pm with a Social Hour(cash bar) followed by the 32nd Annual Meeting and Banquet at 7pm. After dinner, the election of officers and a brief business meeting will be followed by a slide presentation by noted author, historian and GM&OHS member J. Parker Lamb. The evening will conclude with a potpourri presentation of slides from our member's collections. If you want to show off your slide collection to other GM&O fans, now is the time and Memphis is the place to do it.

Sunday morning will feature the Board of Directors meeting. All Society members are invited to attend this function as it will give you a first hand look at how your Society operates. All members of the current Board of Directors are expected to attend so do not miss this opportunity to meet the people that run the Society. The exact time and room location will be announced at the Saturday evening banquet.
Election of Officers and Directors... The offices of Secretary, Treasurer and the five Board of Directors’ seats are up for election this year. These seats are for one year terms. (Please note, President and Vice President are two year terms elected in odd numbered years). If you have a sincere interest in serving the Society, please consider placing your name in nomination for an office. We do however wish to remind you that sitting on the BOD, though not a full time job, does require some effort on your part. You may be asked to work on a committee, help at a swap meet or track down some information. We want as many people as possible running for these offices. Computer skills are helpful but not required. The average monthly workload is only a couple of hours so c’mom friend, don’t be bashful, throw your hat into the ring!

You may nominate yourself for an office simply by contacting the Society Secretary, Art Richardson @ GM&OHS Nominations, P.O. Box 1085, Clinton, MS. 39060. Nominations should be received before September 16, 2004 but can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Publications Committee Report by Ken Donnelly... Enclosed with this mailing is Issue 105 of the GM&OHS NEWS. Our thanks to author Louis Saillard for his article about Dan Watson and how he photographed the GM&O. Thanks are also in line for Gary Stengle for his outstanding piece entitled Last Ride on the GM&O. The Committee would also like to thank all the photographers who contributed pictures for this issue.

Issue 106 of the GM&OHS NEWS will be mailed prior to the October 16th Annual Meeting. Member Curt Kyger once again visits the GM&O freight car fleet with a fascinating story concerning the 75000 series Evans coil cars. George Googe, Jr. adds a special touch to last issue’s story on the Iselin Shops with a special piece on his father, George Googe, Sr., Superintendent of Motive Power. Not to be outdone, Bill Fors, Gene Glendinning and Dick Wallin co-author an extensive feature on Chicago & Alton dining cars.

Right now the Committee is putting the finishing touches on Issue 107 and we need any interesting photograph taken on the GM&O. It can be an unusual power lash-up, freight car or caboose, varnish, structure or employee! Color or black and white, it does not matter. This is for a photo essay that will appear in Issue 107. If you have anything of interest, please contact Ken Donnelly @ P.O. Box 2457, Joliet, IL. 60434 or at 815-791-0201.

One last note, the 2005 GM&OHS calendar will be available for sale at the Society’s table at the Annual Meeting on October 16th.

GM&O Quarterly Quiz... Does anybody know what significance the date July 7, 2004 has in GM&O history. If you know, or just want to take a guess, please respond to: GM&OHS Quiz, P.O. Box 1085, Clinton, MS. 39060.
Modeling Committee Report by the staff... We have good news and we have bad news! The bad news is that the Modeling Committee made a "marketing boo-boo" with GM&OHS Car#27, the good news is that the Modeling Committee made a "marketing boo-boo" with GM&OHS Car#27. All kidding aside, when we decided to produce GM&OHS#27, the Walthers 50' pulpwood car we were required to order a minimum of 480 cars from Wally World. We then had to decide how to break down the 480 cars, i.e. 120 four car sets, 80 six car sets, 60 eight car sets, etc. Well you get the idea. We chose the middle option as the most advantageous for both the Society and its members.

To date, though we have sold almost half of the sets, we still have quite a few available. This fact along with several (almost two dozen) letters from members basically saying the same thing, "We would like to buy the set but we can't justify six cars of this type on our layout". So to paraphrase the National Football League, "after further review", we have decided to offer GM&OHS#27 in a three car set configuration. Please see the enclosed orange flyer (We muffed it! So we thought orange would be an appropriate color for the form...). You will have the opportunity to either purchase the Thrall built cars numbered 3543, 3548 and 3571 or the Magor built cars numbered 3606, 3617 and 3736. Please see the flyer for additional details.

Just a quick note about these cars. They are excellent models, prototypically accurate with outstanding graphics and will easily compliment your existing fleet of GM&OHS#22, the Atlas pulpwood cars that the Society produced in 2001. Please keep in mind that these cars ran in great numbers into the mid 1990's and you can still find a few of them operating between wood yards and chip mills in the South in 2004!

The really interesting news is that Athearn has contacted the Society regarding information on the GM&O's fleet of GP35's! Sometime in the near future, six to eight months, Athearn will be producing a GM&O GP35 using the former Rail Power Products GP35 shell with the improved Athearn underframe/drive train including the Alco Type B road trucks for a prototypical look. Early indications from Athearn are that the first batch of GM&O units will be the early paint scheme with the fully striped nose. If sales warrant a re-run of the GM&O scheme, the latter version with the bold "GM&O" (nos. 637-648) may be produced. The model will be part of their Ready-To-Run line.

To celebrate the historic joint meeting between the GM&OHS and the L&NHS, the Society is proud to announce that a special commemorative set of cars, designated GM&OHS#28, will be available at the October 16th swap meet. One car will be lettered for the GM&O and the other car will carry L&N graphics. This will be an extremely limited offering of only 50 sets. Make plans to attend the swap meet (and stay for the evening banquet) so you can acquire a set of these cars.
TRADE TABLE

WANTED: Original cast iron Alco builder's plates from any and all GM&O locomotives. Interested in everything but especially plates from FAL/FBL units. Also needed to complete collection; GM&O Annual Reports from 1943, 1951, 1952 and 1953. Top dollar paid! Dave Wagner, P.O. Box 365, Bedford Park, IL. 60499-0365, 773-581-4809.

WANTED: GM&O, IC, Southern and other railroad historical societies publications as well as railroad annual reports and employee magazines. Buying collections. Paul Gibson, 161 Gilmore Rd., Wrentham, MA. 02093-1227, RAILPUB@WEBSTRUCK.COM

WANTED: Will buy or trade for Overland IC C636, Lonnie Bathurst, 510 N. State St., Litchfield, IL. 62056, 217-324-2044, LONNIE.L.BATHURST@AEXP.COM

WANTED: Photos, articles, any information about Francis, MO. (other than what has been published in the GM&OH'S NEWS, Issue 21.) Charles Curry, 608 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850, 607-257-2033

FOR SALE: Slides and negatives from Class One carriers, shortlines and industrials, 34 page list, mentions GM&OH'S and send 8½ x 11 envelope with four ounces of postage. Tim Colbert, 4512 Pinewood, Allison Park, PA. 15101

WANTED: C&A and Alton modelers interested in swapping information and tips and possibly funding projects related to these GM&O predecessors. All scales welcome!!! Gene Glendinning, 411 Valencia, Barrington, IL. 60010-3341, gene@ameritech.net

FOR SALE: The photos of H.W. Rouse on CD. 120 images of C&A and Alton steam from 5x7 originals. Many roster shots from the 1930's/40's, other images including action and turn of the century. $10.00 postage paid. Sample pics/images list available via email. Marc Liberta, 323 S. 3rd St., Marion, IL. 62969, marc.liberta@juno.com

FOR SALE: Color slides of GM&O and virtually every other rail carrier that has ever existed during the past century!!! Incredibly, huge, gargantuan, selection of diesel, steam, electric, caboose, freight and passenger. See before you buy! List for SSAE. Wallin's Slides, P.O. Box 1784, Springfield, IL. 62705