

GULF MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Messages from the President... We have several very important items to inform the membership about in this Switchlist. Please see the appropriate committee reports for shows, publications and models!!!

As we announced in the Winter edition of this newsletter, the Annual GM&OHS Spring Show has been annulled for 2005. We do however have great news for those of you craving a train show "fix" in the Spring. The Central Illinois Railroad Club of Bloomington has invited the GM&OHS to participate in their Spring Event on **Sunday April 16, 2005** at the Interstate Center in **Bloomington, IL**. (Please see the enclosed flyer for a map and further details.) Not only will you have the opportunity to visit with many of the usual vendors that have attended our previous Spring Shows but it is estimated that an additional 150 tables of models and railroadians will be available for you to peruse. This is an excellent opportunity to make new friends and possibly find that elusive artifact or model that you have been searching for over the last few years. Remember to stop by the GM&OHS display and say "hello". We hope to see you there!!!

Speaking of rail shows... The GM&OHS is pleased to announce that the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Society will be held **October 15, 2005** at the **Pere Marquette Hotel** in **Peoria, IL**. This promises to be quite an affair since it is being held in a major railroad/railfan community. The facility is in downtown Peoria just two blocks from the interstate and the hotel features spacious guest rooms, a free off-street parking garage for guests and visitors and an ambiance from another era. Mark your calendars now for the weekend of Friday October 14th(hospitality suite), Saturday October 15th(Swap Meet and Annual Meeting Banquet) and Sunday October 16th(Board of Directors Meeting). We are pleased to be able to inform you this early of the date and site for this event. Let's make Peoria the place to be in October!!!

Well done... A belated but well deserved "thank you" goes out to **John Focht** who arranged for the trolley tour at the Annual Meeting in Memphis last October. John also made a sizable monetary donation to the Society. Thanks John!

In Memorium... Former GM&O employee **Nicholas Folk** of Sikeston, MO. passed away on February 1, 2005. Mr. Folk was General Foreman of the South Joliet Roundhouse from the mid 1960's through 1972. He retired from the ICG in 1979. Mr. Folk was a railfan's best friend and he often spotted locomotives just right for that perfect photo. **Colonel William T. Parks(USA retired)** of Louisville, MS. passed away on February 9, 2005. Bill was a West Point graduate, Vietnam veteran and Life Member of the Society. Though he never worked for the GM&O, the Parks Family and the railroad were synonymous for many years. Bill's mother operated a boarding house for the GM&N/GM&O crews just up the street from the Louisville depot. On a personal note, Bill was a true gentleman and whenever GM&OHS members travelled through Louisville, he made a point of inviting us to his home for lunch or the Lake Tiak-o-kata Resort for dinner. Always his treat! He will be missed by his many friends both North and South of the Ohio River!



Publications Committee Report by Ken Donnelly... Never say never as the old saying suggests. In the last Switchlist, I announced my resignation as Vice President and Publications Committee Chairman however due to several items that arose during the last few weeks of 2004 I opted to withdraw my resignation and remain on in those positions until the end of my elected term. Joe Petric has graciously agreed to work with me during this year to get up to speed on publication activities.

Enclosed with this Switchlist is Issue 107 of the NEWS which completes the Society's obligation to the membership for 2004. Though we are still about three months behind in publishing it is our sincere intent to have the NEWS back "on track" by the year's end.

Another change that you may have noticed in the masthead on page two of Issue 107 is that Andover Junction Publications is no longer involved in the production of the NEWS. This was a joint decision reached by AJP and the Society after a number of quality issues arose in the production of Issue 106. We have enjoyed our relationship with AJP and wish Steve Esposito, Mike Shaffer and their entire staff well in all their future endeavors.

Your membership year guarantees at least 80 pages of the NEWS to be published. In some years gone by, the Society has actually provided as many as 88 or 92 pages per year. This year will be no different as 80 pages are guaranteed however the Publications Committee has yet to determine what format will be used for delivery. We may publish four 20 page issues, two 20 page issues and a 40 page magazine or a combination of a 32 and 48 page double issue. Rest assured, you will receive your guaranteed 80 pages if not more! Look for your next issue of the NEWS sometime in June of this year. We are already putting this exciting magazine together and you will not be disappointed!

A very limited supply of 2004 and 2005 all color GM&OHS calendars remain on hand. To close out both of these programs, the Society will offer the two calendars combined for the low price of only \$20.00 postage paid. This is a savings of \$7.75 from the original individual prices for both calendars. This may be your last opportunity to acquire these assets. The quality color pictures alone are worth the price and you may want to remove your favorite "month" and hang it in your den or railroad room. Please contact; **GM&OHS Calendars, P.O. Box 1085, Clinton, MS. 39060.**

Speaking of calendars... We are putting together the 2006 calendar and are looking for that rare, unusual or even everyday color shot on the GM&O or a predecessor line. So if you have a slide, negative or even a high quality print which is clear and has good color why not submit it for possible use on our next calendar. Remember, what good is that picture in your collection if you can't share it with someone else? Please contact **Ken Donnelly, P.O. Box 2457, Joliet, IL. 60434** or Email at **kdonnelly79@aol.com.**



Modeling Committee Report by the staff... The GM&OHS will offer at least three limited run/special edition models this year. All the projects will be produced with cost in mind. Over the past couple of years, the Society has been forced to buy large quantities of kits due to some manufacturer's minimum order requirements and in turn this necessitated the need for large sets at the extreme end of the pricing spectrum. Therefore, we have chosen car kits for this year which are a bit more affordable while still maintaining prototypical accuracy in both car style and lettering.

Enclosed with this mailing is the order form for GM&OHS#29 our latest offering of custom produced, prototypically correct limited run models. The exact details are on the gray form however this is an unusual (for the GM&O) car that really stands out in a train. Only 50 sets have been produced and we expect them to sell out rapidly so don't delay in ordering yours as soon as possible.

GM&OHS#30 will be a three car, box car set all lettered in various post-war GM&O schemes however each car will be a different type; a ten panel steel box car representing former Alton equipment, an outside braced box car which is prototypically correct for an original piece of GM&N rolling stock and a double sheathed box car originally rostered by the M&O. As mentioned earlier, all three will be lettered in late 1940's GM&O schemes. Representatives of these three car classes survived in revenue service well into the 1960's. Look for this order form in your next mailing of the NEWS in June 2005.

GM&OHS#31 will be the a 40' composite side gondola available in four different schemes! These cars were originally rostered by the Chicago and Alton, rebuilt in kind by the Alton and later relettered by the GM&O for revenue and MOW service. We are offering all four of these paint schemes of which we have photographic proof. Because of the unique nature of this set, we are taking pre-orders on these cars and only the number of cars ordered will be produced however the individual modeler will have the opportunity to purchase one, two, three or all four cars if he so desires. Look for the pre-order form in your Autumn mailing.

We are also hoping to have a Limited Run Annual Meeting Car this year in Peoria. Right now, we can say that there will be only 20-25 two car sets produced and each car in the set will feature a different lettering scheme, albeit both pure GM&O. Plan on coming to Peoria to take advantage of this offering.

GM&OHS Quarterly Quiz... Last issue we asked you what significance the date February 1, 2005 had in GM&O history. Once again, we stumped the masses! The GM&O Railroad existed 11654 days, September 13, 1940 to August 10, 1972. The GM&O Historical Society was founded on March 7, 1973. Therefore on January 31, 2005 the GM&OHS achieved the same longevity that the railroad enjoyed and on February 1, 2005 the Society has officially existed longer than the railroad it represents! Hey Schramm, Volkar and Zimmerman, do you feel really old now?