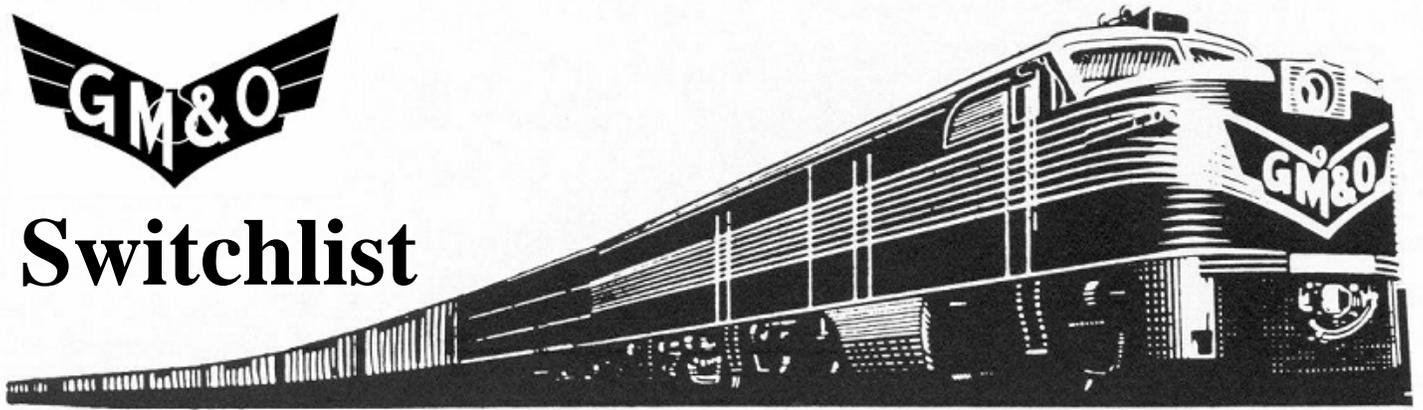




Switchlist



GULF, MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Page 1

Message from President Ken Donnelly

In life, there are a few things that never fail to get our hearts beating a little faster, and I mean in a good way. Falling in love is great, as was that first day of summer vacation. Finding money doesn't stink, and of course, seeing a GM&O freight car in a train after all these years always gets the old ticker flutterin'. One other thing that is nice to see is that big ole white *GM&OHS* envelope in the mail, stuffed full with magazines, calendars, special offers, whatever. If you're reading this now, you just received one, and there are still a few to come for 2009. Hurray!

What about 2010, though? As stated in the last *Switchlist*, the offices of President and Vice President will be open at the end of this year. So too, will the Chairs for the Modeling and Publications Committees. Now is the time to make a complete self-assessment, and decide if any of these positions are something you would like to take a stab at. None of these positions, even the Presidency, consume an inordinate amount of time. Furthermore, while I oversaw much of the operations concerning the *NEWS* and the modeling, as well as the calendar, no one other person needs to feel that that is how they need to conduct business. Just pick one job, and be great at it.

Speaking strictly for myself, I'm a classic over manager; I couldn't avoid micro-managing even if I tried. But I am also a realist, and because of this I do understand that while I tried to do the best for the Society as I saw it, it is simply impossible to please everyone. I am sure there were points of view not reflected in some of my choices. That is why it is time for others to take the reins, and in so doing, allow the Society to grow and prosper in new directions that would not be readily apparent to me. With all this being said, let me add that these jobs are all immensely rewarding, as well as the fact that anyone coming to them with no prior experience will not be alone. Help is always a phone call or e-mail away. What is the upshot? The big, white *GM&OHS* envelopes keep coming, raising our pulses with anticipation, and keeping the GM&O alive. **So get in the game, you'll be glad you did!**

Messages from Secretary Marc Liberta

Nominations are now being accepted for the five seats on the 2010 Board of Directors as well as for all four offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (the offices of President and Vice President are two year terms which are elected in odd numbered years, all others are one year terms). Please send written nominations to: **Election 2010, P.O. Box 1753, Marion, IL 62959**. A simple statement for the desired candidate and your signature is all that is required to nominate a willing member. Electronic submissions are acceptable, as well, and may be directed to marc.liberta@juno.com **Current Board Members are required to submit their names if they wish to run again for a seat on the BOD.** All nominations must be received by August 14, 2009. (*Continued on page 3*)



37th Annual Meeting Details

Mark your calendars!!! We are once again happy to announce that the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the *Hampton Inn Centre*, 2201 Reelfoot Ave.(U.S. 51), Union City, Tenn. on October 9, 10 and 11, 2009. Encouraged by the success of last year's Annual Meeting the decision was made to once again hold the event in Union City.

The *Hampton Inn Centre* is located on the southwest side of Union City. This facility is less than a dozen years old and the staff is top notch. Last year was one of the finest meetings that we have ever had and this was due in no small part to the fine people at the Hampton as well as the residents of Obion County, Tennessee. Come on down, or up or over to experience some real southern hospitality.

The weekend begins with our now traditional **Friday Night Hospitality Suite** which will be held in the Conference Center Ballroom from 7 pm to 11 pm. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike, and it is free of charge. Refreshments and snacks will also be a part of the festivities. If you have some slides, movies or videos bring them for all to see. This is a great time for visiting with old acquaintances and making new friends.

On **Saturday, October 10th**, we will have our **Railroadiana Show and Sale**. Last year we had dealers from all over the country selling everything from model trains to timetables to slides, to photos and railroad hardware. Come on by and find that missing treasure to complete your collection. To date, over twenty tables have been spoken for already and we plan to sell out just as we did last year (if you are a dealer, get your table reservations in now to avoid any disappointment). The doors to the swap open at 9 am and the show runs until 3 pm. Dealer set-up begins at 6 am Saturday, though arrangements can be made for Friday night set-up if required (but this will be after the Hospitality gathering winds down).

Our 37th Annual Banquet begins at 6 pm with a **Social Hour** that will run until 7 pm. Lyricist and former board member Foots Quinn of Bogalusa, La. will perform some of his railroad ballads between 6:30 and 6:50 pm to put all of us in a positive mood for a great evening of food and visual entertainment. Dinner will run from 7 until 8 pm, at which time we will hold the business meeting portion of the night's events. This takes about twenty minutes and then after a brief break we will have our featured presentation, *The Story of Old No. 72*, a history of one ten-wheeler and how it survives to this day through the efforts of several people in the Franklinton, La. area. This will be a special program of interest to young and old alike. We will complete the evening with member's videos and slides, as is our tradition.

On **Sunday morning**, beginning at 8:15 am, the Board of Directors will hold a business meeting. Why not stop by and see how your society is run? This is a great opportunity, and we think you will find it of great interest especially due to the transitioning members of the BOD this year. We hope to see as many of you as possible in attendance.

More weekend details will follow in the Autumn *Switchlist*.



Secretary's Messages cont.

I want to speak to *GM&OHS* Life Members in particular (there are 139 of us), about serving in one of the capacities that Ken Donnelly mentioned in his message on page one. There were two open periods where life memberships were offered. The first occurred at nearly the beginning of the Society from 1975, and stretched until 1987. The second period spanned from 1995 to 2000. Many original life members (and some of the newer vintage), are well known figures by virtue of their involvement throughout the years (and my personal thanks go out to each and every one of them). Members from both categories helped out either a fledgling historical society, or one that found itself in financial difficulties, and took the leap of faith that their decision to 'pay it forward' would be a sound investment. It has been. Annual memberships in 1975 were \$5 when Life memberships were \$100, and in 1995 the figures were \$18.50 and \$250, respectively. That means that even the final members to become lifers in 2000, have now moved to the dividend side of the equation (\$45 to the good as of this year), and the last to join during the initial offering are \$526 in the black. This brings me to my point, in that it is time that every one of the 139 persons who showed confidence in the Society's future with their financial backing, now assess what they have to offer in the sweat equity department. What skill set can you bring to bear on the workings of our organization? What time can you devote to the continuation of the Society we all connect through? Like any enterprise, our Society benefits from fresh ideas and energized participation. To my fellow 138 life members, how about it...will you step up to the next level?

Modeling Committee Report by the Staff

Atlas Model Railroad Co., Inc. has just released their latest run of Alco RS1's. MSRP is \$139.95. Our compliments to Atlas on the improved shell detail which features separate grab irons, improved window treatments, color keyed handrails and Accu-Mate couplers (a nice set of improvements from when the predecessor to this model was first introduced in 1986-1987). Atlas chose to give the hobbyist an as-delivered GM&O two-tone RS1 (nos. 1123 or 1125) so we have been waiting to see just how well they would be able to do this scheme. Overall, not bad, but it could have been much better. The most noticeable flaw is the shade of maroon which is closer to purple than a GM&O maroon. On the positive side, the red band is crisp and the color looks pretty good. The lettering is correctly done in Dulux Gold and the striping is an accurate one inch scale width.

The lettering on the engineer's side is accurately placed right to left and top to bottom, however, the lettering on the fireman's side is set about an actual one quarter inch too far back toward the cab (a very minor error and one that truly does not detract from the model). The numbers on both sides of the cab are oddly spaced, as they were on the prototype when delivered from Schenectady.

We believe that Atlas would have done better to use 21-inch tall numbers on the cab sides rather than the as-delivered 7 inch tall numbers. By the early 1950's most units delivered with 7 inch tall numbers had either been repainted into solid red, or if they did retain their two-tone schemes (as only a very few units did), they had the 21-inch tall numbers added to their sides. We wish manufacturers would consider producing solid colored units (red or maroon as appropriate) and believe the response would be overwhelmingly positive.



GM&OHS Car No. 34 in HO Scale

The HO version of car no. 34, the GAEX-leased, 50 ft. green boxcar, is still available but supplies are quickly dwindling. Less than twenty of the two-car sets remain in stock. The price per set is \$50.00, postage paid. Don't delay and miss the chance of adding these great looking GM&O boxcars to your layout. Order online using *PayPal*, or print out an order form at the Society's website and mail it in.

2010 GM&OHS All-Color Calendar

It does seem a bit early to be talking about 2010, but this is the time of the year when we begin to put the new calendar together. First, we would like to thank everyone that has supported this program over the past few years, and we look forward to your future support. Secondly, if anyone has clear, sharp color prints, negatives or slides of a GM&O image that they feel is unique, and would like to share it, now is the time to come forward. Presently, only about half of the calendar space is filled. Images most desirable are Southern Region color from the 40's to the 60's, and the Western Division (ex-Alton Route to Kansas City). If you think you have something you'd like to share, please contact **Ken Donnelly at (815) 278-0384**, or at kennednn@aol.com. Thank you.

In Memoriam

George W. Broughton, a founding member of the *GM&OHS*, passed away April 7th at the age of 94. George was a long time GM&O/Alton employee, starting as a machinist apprentice in 1938 and later serving in several capacities including roundhouse foreman at various points on the former Alton system. He retired in 1974 as Wheel & Axle Shop foreman at Bloomington. Born into a railroad family, his father Clarence was a C&A locomotive engineer remembered for always being on time—no matter what.

Until recently, George attended most *GM&OHS* functions and his loud booming voice and enthusiasm for anything GM&O let us know he was there. He regaled us with many vivid tales of his GM&O days, some of them possibly true. An avid collector of railroading, his home was decorated with many artifacts, both inside and out. When he was foreman at the Springfield Ridgely engine house, he had a new home built in Springfield and had a large cast iron C&A RR manhole cover embedded into the cement driveway! He will be missed by the many Society members and railroaders with whom he had contact over the years. To learn more about George's railroad days, read pages 121-126 in the book *Bloomington's C&A Shops, Our Lives Remembered*. Our thoughts are with Mildred, wife of nearly 70 years, and his family who survive.