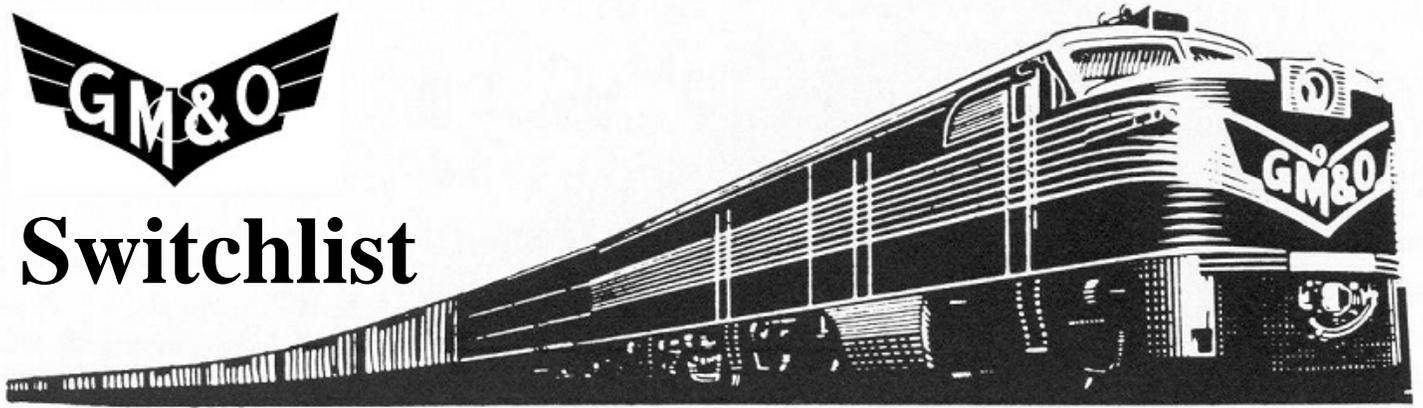




Switchlist



GULF, MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Message from President Fred Bradley

First, I would like to thank Ken Donnally and his crew for the job they did in furthering the excellence that the GM&O Historical Society has achieved. You have done an outstanding job!! I am pledging the same efforts from my officers and myself for the next two years.

Second, I would like to challenge each one of the membership to recruit at least one new member this year. We have a lot to be proud of, so let others know what an outstanding historical society you are a part of. This effort will not only let us grow in numbers and financial security, but will also let others know what we have accomplished. I look forward to great things during the next two years.

38th Annual Meeting Announcement

We first held an Annual Meeting in Jackson, Tenn. way back in 1979, and then returned to the home of *Iselin* again in 1984, 1988, and 2002. Clearly, it's one of our favorite locations, so for 2010 we will once more visit beautiful west central Tennessee, but this time with a twist. Our 38th Annual Meeting of the *GM&O Historical Society* is sharing the spotlight with *Casey Jones Village* in a partnership that we are sure will be something special. Details will be forthcoming in the Summer *Switchlist*, but this collaboration is quite exciting and different from anything we have done in the past. Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 8-10, and plan to attend our thirty-eighth annual get together.

GM&O News Digitization Program

We hope you've noticed the enclosed flier for the set of CD's which contain the entire publications output of the 1950's for the GM&O's company newsletter. This is the first of three planned releases that will cover the complete span of the GM&O's existence from 1940 to 1972. The project has taken some time to bring to fruition, but one that has been looked towards with enthusiasm by board members. Making some of the most essential material from the GM&O itself available to members, for both individual and research interests, should be one of the missions of our historical society. Preservation and the dissemination of this information are also goals achieved through projects such as this. We urge you to take advantage of this wonderful historic resource.



Notes from Secretary Marc Liberta

For those of you reading this in April, I am preaching to the choir, so to you, a very big "thank you" for renewing your membership for 2010 on time. Your promptness really does save the Society a significant amount of money in postage costs, and it is appreciated. Special thanks also go out to individuals who have opted to provide additional support to the Society by choosing Sustaining and Benefactor level memberships. Many of you do this year in and year out, but we also have members that fluidly move between Regular/Senior, Sustaining and Benefactor levels over the years. Your support is always important. Annual members will find new membership cards included with this mailing. To complete your card please write in your membership number (which can be found on your mailing label following your name) in the appropriate space on the pass.

Announcing GM&OHS Special Edition Car #35

Orders are not yet being taken, but we have chosen Accurail's excellent 41 foot AAR steel gondola model for a three-car set as our next offering of Special Edition Cars. Having different variations in lettering and ampersands from that of the one car released by the manufacturer, complete ordering information will be included with the Summer *Switchlist*.

In Memoriam

The Society wishes to extend condolences to the family and friends of **F. John Taylor** of Virginia, Ill. who passed last September 19th. John was once an enthusiastic member who attended many of the Society's railroiana shows. A lasting contribution of John's for which the Society remains grateful was to use his connections with the Mercantile Library Board to get our GM&OHS archives cataloged (after years of inaction on the part of the library).

We also note the passing of **Patrick Hayes** of Montgomery, Ala., who died on December 18th. Pat was an active supporter of the GM&OHS, having been the show coordinator for our annual meetings in Tuscaloosa (1994), and Montgomery (2006), and after two decades, countless people are wearing the GM&O apparel and hats that he enthusiastically sold at our shows.

Also, we had been looking forward to 2010 in anticipation of the return of **Stephen Parsons** to the Publications Committee. Steve was the editor of the *NEWS* from 1989 to 1993, and also contributed articles on a variety of subjects. Unfortunately, the chance to see additional stories from Steve ended when he passed away about December 19th at his residence in rural Sparta, Ill. Once an operator for the GM&O, Steve worked in stations from E. St. Louis to Rives, Tenn., and used this first hand perspective while researching the railroad and telling its stories even after his career took him elsewhere.

Finally, Margaret Peters, an Honorary GM&OHS Member and widow of former GM&OHS charter member and treasurer Walt Peters, passed away March 13th in Springfield, Ill., at the age of 99. Margaret was always a smiling face at GM&OHS functions and she kept in touch with several members in the 27 years since Walt passed away.

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 purposes of increasing communication between members and disseminating time sensitive information. Members with information suitable for publication in the *Switchlist* should forward it to; GM&OHS *Switchlist*, P.O. Box 1753, Marion, IL. 62959.