GULF, MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2014

Message from President Dwaine Hubbell

My sincerest thanks to Ken Donnelly for the excellent job that he has done for the GM&O Historical Society and what has been achieved. You have done an outstanding job! I am pledging the same efforts from my officers and myself for the next two years.

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

You may have noticed that, unlike in years past, a yearly membership card is not enclosed. It has been discussed how many of us really carry the card. Mine makes it into the drawer not to see the light of day again. With the way we are sending out the magazine, straight from the printer, instead of volunteers stuffing into mailers and getting it all to the post office, including the membership card would complicate the process. There is a cost for each piece that is handled and other societies have also done away with this. We feel that the money could be better used in other places. Let us know what you think.

If you are not a member of the GM&O Yahoo! Group, even though it is separate from the society and not governed by us, there is a lot of information that is discussed. It can be accessed through www.gmohs.org, from where you can set up your Yahoo! Account.

Message from Treasurer David Johnston

Treasurer’s Report March 2014
A big “thank you” is extended to all members who renewed their society memberships for year 2014. We also want to welcome back those members who forgot to renew their membership the
last two or three years and responded to our “re-rail” invitations, reminding them to get back on board.

Good news- Our Pay Pal system is now fully operational. I would like to thank our website team, society members Mike Truitt and Dennis Manson for repairing this problem for us. You can now conduct business with the GM&OHS via our website at www.gmohs.org.

We understand that membership renewals come due at the year-end holiday season, which is normally a busy time for bill-paying and subscription renewals. We have received feedback saying, “Oh, I set it aside and forgot about it.” Is there something we could do to make the renewal process simpler and easier? We are considering sending out pre-printed/pre-addressed return envelopes to make it easier for those of you who pay by check. We know that most non-renewing members don’t intentionally want to drop their membership, so we will keep looking for easier ways to help them renew their annual membership.

Thanks for your continued support,
David M. Johnston, GM&OHS Treasurer

Message from Modeling Chairman Jason Parham

We are still waiting for word from Intermountain on when production might start on the R 40-23 Banana cars. We have the opportunity to produce a GM&O wood caboose, ex M&O style wood caboose these cars were used from the 20s through the 1972 merger and beyond, so they were used from Mobile to Chicago. These would be produced by American Model Builders and this would be a laser cut kit. We would like to know if there is interest and how many you would be interested in if we did produce it. You can make contact at gmo1515@comcast.net or 1-205-534-6529.

Needs Help

The city of Quitman, Miss., is in the process of starting a railroad museum. If you have things that would be of interest for a museum or if you would just like to help in getting this started, you can contact Ms. Frances Morgan at MsFrances000@gmail.com or 601-776-0409 or the mayor at 601-776-4002. They would like any help.

The society was saddened to hear of the passing of member and former treasurer Doug Shehorn after a long illness this past winter. Doug also left the society with a bequest from his estate. His favorite engine was #950.
42nd Annual Meeting Announcement

Our 42nd Annual Meeting will be held in downtown Memphis, Tenn., over the weekend of October 3-5, 2014. Our focus for this meeting will be the 100th Anniversary of Memphis’ Central Station. Our hotel will be the Comfort Inn at 100 North Front Street.

While GM&O tracks never reached Memphis, it was a very important point of service by long freights from Corinth, Miss., via trackage rights over the Southern Railway. The hotel is also centrally located for most of our society’s members. There is the added attraction of being able to travel by Amtrak’s City Of New Orleans from the heart of the GM&O land. (Convenient arrival times: 10:00 pm from the south and 6:30 am from the north).

We will start out following our traditional format with a Friday evening gathering in our hotel’s hospitality room to register and pick up our name tags and meeting information packets. You are welcome to hang around visiting with other members and watch slide shows and/or videos. If you prefer to hit the hot spots of Memphis, the Beale St. entertainment district it is just a short walk or trolley ride down Main St. For complete information on Memphis’ top tourist attractions check out this website: http://www.memphistravel.com/

Saturday, we will differ from our past meetings, in that all of our activities will be at the beautiful refurbished Central Station built and opened 100 years ago. To help celebrate Central Station’s Centennial, Amtrak will have their eight car Museum Train on display and open for touring. The Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum, located in the station, will have some special exhibits commemorating the centennial. There will be several activities involving the station’s history and tours of the station facilities. Our Railroadiana show will also be in a large meeting room at Central Station. We hope this unique event will bring out dealers from around the country. Our banquet that evening will also be at Central Station.

Getting from our hotel to Central Station will be a real treat and unique from our society’s previous annual meetings. We will utilize Memphis’ Heritage trolley system. Our hotel is just one short block to a trolley stop on Main St. From here you have the choice of two routes to Central Station. One is straight down Main Street and the other is a scenic routing right along the Mississippi Riverfront on the very rails that Casey Jones rode out on from Memphis’ Poplar St. Station on his date with destiny. Trolley fares are a dollar each way and 50 cents for seniors.

Our hotel is unique in that almost all of the rooms have an exquisite view of the Mississippi River, Mud Island River Park and monorail and our historic railroad bridges – the Great Memphis Bridge (later, the Frisco Bridge) opened in 1892 & the Harahan Bridge opened in 1916.
We are reaching out to all of the historical societies of the many railroads that served Memphis to invite their members to come and enjoy this historic celebration. This includes:

- Illinois Central
- Southern
- Frisco
- Missouri Pacific
- Rock Island
- Cotton Belt
- Louisville & Nashville
- NC&StL
- Y&MV

* We have arranged the best possible deal on room rates in downtown Memphis. (Remember Memphis is a large urban center and downtown rooms fill up quickly in October.) Our special rate is $109.00 plus tax per night -- Single, Double, Triple, or Quad with complimentary hot breakfast.

We will have more details and a meeting registration form in the next issue of the *Switchlist*. Since October is such a delightful time to visit Memphis, we would urge you to: *Please call the Comfort Inn immediately for reservations @ 901-526-0583 and ask for the GM&ORRHS rate.* The cut-off date for reservations is September 3, 2014 at 5:00pm CDT. We could only block off 50 rooms and they will likely go quickly. Other railroad societies may take advantage of our block. After cut-off rates will revert to $145 per night. There is so much to see and do in Memphis you might want to come early and/or stay over.

More details will follow. If you have any questions please call Bill Strong; Phone: 901-756-5356 or E-mail: williamstrong@bellsouth.net

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