



Turntable TIMES

Volume 33, Number 6

June 2001

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Inc.





Turntable TIMES

**Volume 33, Number 6
June 2001**

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Turntable Times is published monthly as the newsletter of the Roanoke Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Inc. Opinions and points of view expressed herein are those of the staff members of the Turntable Times and not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or directors of the Chapter.

Meeting Notice

The Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will hold its next general meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2001 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on the corner of McClanahan and Crystal Spring Avenue in Roanoke. Our program will be a video tape which will be a surprise.

Our June program will be a video tape produced by our own Gary Ballard about Amtrak. It should be outstanding!

From The Head End

Cards and Flowers

If you know of a Chapter Member who is sick, lost a loved one or has a new birth in the family, please contact Bonnie Molinary. Bonnie is responsible for Chapter cards and flowers and can be reached at 362-0273.

Deadline for Turntable Times

The deadline for the next issue of Turntable Times is Monday, June 18, 2001. Please send articles, information and all exchange newsletters to: Kenney Kirkman, Editor, Turntable Times, 590 Murphy Road, Collinsville, Va. 24078-2128.

Material For Turntable Times

We are always in need of articles, photos or news items for the Turntable Times. Due to copyright restrictions, we cannot reprint articles from many newspapers; a condensed or rewritten article crediting the source is acceptable.

Cover Photo

After months of waiting, we finally have an actual sample of the proposed Virginia License plate featuring the 611. The final design has been approved and now ready for production, except for one thing, we still need almost 300 more orders to reach the minimum of 350 plates. The order form is again reproduced inside this issue, please get your order in soon!

Chapter Outing

Every member is encouraged to participate in the summer outing to the Strasburg Railroad; the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum and the B&O Museum in Baltimore on July 28-29.

Joe Austin and Paul Howell have put together a great package at a very economical price. This is tourist season in this area, and hotel costs are very high, but we have the package which includes the bus, the Strasburg ride, admission to Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, dinner, the hotel and a visit to the B&O Museum (admission not included) all for a low price of \$140 per member. We need as many participants for this outing to make it a huge success, this is our first outing since TVRM several years back, contact Joe or Paul or come to the next Chapter meetings to sign up. Please come and make your commitment at the June meeting, and if possible bring your checkbook!

Membership Directory

A 2001 Membership directory will be available at the June and July meetings, it is limited to one copy per family, and will be distributed at the meetings, if you cannot attend, please send a No. 10 stamped, self addressed envelope to the Chapter Box, attention membership and we will be glad to mail you a copy.

All members who had paid their dues as of the printing date are listed (we hope) if there are corrections, please get them to Lawanda Ely as quickly as possible and we will make it right the next time.

Mixed Freight - June

This should have been mentioned in my last column, but I guess it's not too late to mention it now about Amtrak hitting 30 years of age this past May 1st. I remember spending the last few hours of pre-Amtrak at Richmond's Broad Street Station. I declare it does not seem like thirty years.

Most if not all of you have probably heard of Operation Lifesaver, a grade crossing safety promotional program that was born during the early seventies. It now embraces the task of educating the public of the dangers and in some cases legal penalties for trespassing on railroad property. A few months ago Operation Lifesaver bought billboard space along Interstate 95 within the city limits of Richmond. It could be seen by southbound traffic, and its message was to warn people of Virginia's \$250.00 fine for trespassing on railroad property. I'm not sure what percentage of the general population knows this Virginia law, but one thing for sure is this, most railfans who reside in states other than Virginia are very much aware of it.

There is a possibility that you might be seeing motive power of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway in company with Norfolk Southern diesels on Norfolk bound intermodal trains. The two railroads recently embraced a seamless run thru intermodal train agreement involving numerous east - west routes between California cities and cities in the east such as the New York metropolitan area, Baltimore, Harrisburg and Norfolk.

We had hoped that former Pennsylvania Railroad K4s # 1361 would be ready for

some kind of excursion or stationary but steamed up visit at Altoona this July 4th coming. This will not likely happen. I'll get more details during my Memorial Day weekend visit to Altoona.

A runaway southbound freight notwithstanding, CSX has initiated a project called "On Track 2003." The project's goal is to reduce the number of derailments on CSX to the point where the railroad will rank among the best in the industry in terms of fewest derailments. Right now, it ranks next to last. According to CSX, the money it spent for derailment related expenses alone for the year 2000 would have bought the railroad ALL of the following items: New humping controls for a classification yard, 75 miles of new rail, 12 new AC locomotives, and rebuilt 1,200 freight cars. CSX hopes to achieve its goal by 2003.

The summer Great Scale Train Show will take place at The Maryland State Fairgrounds at Timonium, Maryland during the weekend of June 23rd & 24th. Hours are 9 am. til 5 pm. on Saturday and 10:00 am. til 4 pm. on Sunday. For more information call 410-730-1036. Visit their website at www.GSMTS.com

Now Available!

A directory of North Carolina's Railroad Structures is now available! This new publication covers all the documented railroad structures in North Carolina (about 450) with information on location, provenance, status, a description and photograph of each structure. The 8 and 1/2 by 11 book is continuous spiral bound so that it lies flat, and has laminated covers for durability. Here's a valuable resource for railroad

students, station "hunters," and students of architecture.

Copies are available from the Old North State Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, publisher of the book, for \$23.50 postpaid. North Carolina residents must add \$1.41 sales tax per copy.

Make your check out to Old North State Chapter and mail it with your order to: David Liles, ONS Treasurer, 5668 Soft Wind Drive, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526-8580.

Norfolk & Western No. 578

by Ray Myers

(The following letter submitted by Ray Myers was sent by Ray to the Fanmail segment of Railfan and Railroad Magazine regarding N&W No. 578 and appeared in the June, 2001 issue.) Some background here first by Ray. N&W class E2 Pacific No. 578 along with an N&W combine were together at the Ohio Railway Museum for many years. No. 578 operated on track of the former Columbus, Delaware and Marion Interurban line which the museum is located just north of Columbus. The letter from Ray to Railfan and Railroad reads as follows:

Reference is made in Jeff Terry's LINE-SIDE LEGACY in the April, 2001 issue concerning Norfolk & Western No. 578 looking out of place pulling Pullman cars under trolley wire. During the years 1927-'30 I rode in Pullman cars with family in both directions between Portsmouth and Columbus behind No. 578 or sister locomotives 572, 575 and 576. These locomotives pulled the Columbus section of train Nos. 3 and 4, the 'Pocahontas', and Nos. 15 and 16,

**Attention
Railfans!
New
Commemorative
License Plate
Design Approved
by Virginia
Division of Motor
Vehicles**



The Virginia General Assembly authorized a special license plate design for Virginia's Railway Heritage, featuring the Class J, Number 611 during it's 2000 session.

Before this design can be issued, a minimum order of 350 plates must be made.

The Roanoke Chapter NRHS along with the Virginia Museum of Transportation (Home of the 611) is coordinating the effort to get enough advance orders for the plate to allow it to be issued.

The colorful design (shown above in black and white) features the 611 pulling a tuscan red passenger train in front of the Blue Ridge mountains. The bottom of the plate features the wording in gold on a tuscan red banner. The plate is available for a \$10 extra charge; in addition to your current plates.

Out of state residents can also order a "sample" plate, like shown above for \$10, these will not be valid for use on a vehicle, but make a great display piece.

If you wish to personalize the plate, a total of 6 spaces are available (5 for disabled) including spaces or dashes. Please list three choices, in order of preference. For personalized plates the charge is \$20

extra, plus the usual personalized plate charge each year at renewal.

If you choose not to customize the plate it will be issued with four numerals followed by two alpha characters.

Remember, we must get the 350 orders for these plates before they can be made.

Please note, this design will not be available via the DMV website until produced, orders must be sent with the form.

Please make your check payable to Roanoke Chapter NRHS and send it with the completed application form to:

**Roanoke Chapter NRHS
attn. 611 License Plate
P.O. Box 13222
Roanoke, VA 24032**

Please be aware it may be six months or more until the plate will be issued, if 350 orders are not collected, we will return your check then. Please include a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope with your order and we will provide an update on the plate status as we get closer to our goal.

The official DMV form is reproduced on the back of this sheet.

**APPLICATION FOR COMMUNIPLATES OR
SPECIAL INTEREST SERIES**

\$10.00 FEE

VSA 10 (01/99)

OWNER'S NAME (LAST)	(FIRST)	(MIDDLE)
CO-OWNER'S NAME (LAST)	(FIRST)	(MIDDLE)
MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
CURRENT PLATE NO.	EXPIRATION:	MO. YR.
TITLE NO	TELEPHONE NO	
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		

FOR REGULAR PASSENGER PLATES ONLY:(BLUE & WHITE)

I DO NOT WISH TO APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATE. THE FEE IS \$10.00 ANNUALLY.

FOR PERSONALIZED SPECIAL PLATES ONLY:

I DO WISH TO APPLY FOR PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES. THE FEE IS \$20.00 ANNUALLY.

• INDICATE YOUR THREE CHOICES IN ORDER OF YOUR PREFERENCE BELOW.

• COMBINATIONS WILL BE CENTERED ON THE LICENSE PLATES.

• THE FOLLOWING ARE GUIDELINES TO USE WHEN MAKING YOUR REQUEST.

~~• BLUE & WHITE PASSENGER AND SCENIC (MOUNTAINS TO SHORE, AUTUMN) LICENSE PLATES CAN HAVE A MAXIMUM OF SEVEN CHARACTERS WITH ONE SPACE OR DASH. AMPERSANDS (&) ARE ALLOWED. THEY ARE CONSIDERED AS ONE CHARACTER.~~

• TWO TO SIX CHARACTERS WITH NO MORE THAN TWO SPACES OR TWO DASHES. SPACES AND DASHES CANNOT BE USED CONSECUTIVELY.

~~• PATRIOT AND LOGO LICENSE PLATES WILL ALLOW A MAXIMUM OF TWO TO SIX CHARACTERS, SPACES, DASHES AND AMPERSANDS (&) ARE ALLOWED; HOWEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED ONE SPACE AND CANNOT BE USED CONSECUTIVELY. NO OTHER PUNCTUATION IS ALLOWED.~~

• HERITAGE LICENSE PLATES CAN HAVE A MAXIMUM OF SIX CHARACTERS PLUS A DASH OR SPACE.

~~• DISABLED SCENIC LICENSE PLATES CAN HAVE SIX CHARACTERS WITHOUT SPACES OR DASHES OR TWO TO FIVE CHARACTERS WITH SPACES AND DASHES.~~

• DISABLED HERITAGE LICENSE PLATES CAN HAVE FIVE CHARACTERS WITHOUT SPACES OR DASHES OR TWO TO FOUR CHARACTERS WITH SPACES AND DASHES.

1ST _____

2ND _____

3RD _____

I/We certify that (Check Only ONE Box)

This vehicle is insured by a liability policy issued through an insurance company licensed to do business in Virginia and it will remain insured while registered.

This vehicle is not insured, therefore, I am remitting the applicable uninsured motor vehicle fee (provides NO insurance coverage).

A vehicle must be insured with liability coverage when it is registered, and it must remain insured while registered whether or not it is operated, or the uninsured motor vehicle fee must be paid. Penalties are severe for violation of this requirement.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:

I certify that all information contained herein is true and correct. A corporation or company must sign the firm's name per authorized representative.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date / /
 M M D D Y Y

Telephone No. _____

If paying by Credit Card, enter Credit Card Number here along with Expiration Date (MM/YY)

FOR SAMPLE ONLY

I desire a sample plate - \$10.00 fee. (One plate will be issued. Plate is **NOT** for use on motor vehicles).

I desire a personalized sample plate - \$20.00 fee. (One plate will be issued. Plate is **NOT** for use on motor vehicles).

Check Type of Plate Requested:

Regular (Blue & White) Heritage (Dogwood-Cardinal) Scenic (Mountain to Shore)

Other (Autumn)

(Patriot)

Virginia Railroad Heritage/611

Name of Plate

the 'Cavalier', which operated daily between Norfolk and Cincinnati.

Oddly enough, you could look out your Pullman window about 6:30 a.m. and see interurbans on the adjacent third-rail tracks between Chillicothe and Circleville as they headed for Columbus.

I also remember Columbus, Delaware & Marion deluxe cars 500 and 501 in their bright red paint as they passed near my Columbus home during that time. I believe the Ohio Railway Museum has one of these cars. It is good to know that the museum is on the road to recovery.

Raymond R. Myers, Plant City, Florida.

Book Review

by John Austen

The Railroad Passenger Car: An Illustrated History of the First Hundred Years, with Accounts by Contemporary Passengers, by August Mencken.

Johns Hopkins University Press (2715 N. Charles Street, Baltimore MD21218-4319), 2000. 209 + xvii pp. \$27.95.

This is a reprint of the first book devoted exclusively to the development and experience of passenger train travel, originally released in 1957. The author is the brother of the renowned Baltimore editor H. L. Mencken.

Part I is presented in nine chapters which discuss the experience of passenger train travel (and its development during the first 100 years of the railroad age), addressing accommodations, safety and comfort, cost, and passenger reactions. This was the first thorough study of the subject, benefiting from much solid research in the patent office. John White's *The American Railroad*

Passenger Car (1978, Johns Hopkins) grew logically from Mencken's work.

White valued this book especially for Part II, which consists of excerpts of narratives from passengers recounting their travel experiences. There is something for everyone here, juxtaposing the peculiarities of the new mode of travel with revealing social commentaries. We see people adapting to change, and people just being people. We are told of a passenger who slept with his feet hanging out the window, waking to find that some roadside station humorist, unable to resist the temptation, had covered them with tar.

The 79 black and white illustrations appearing throughout the book include photographs, engravings, and line drawings (many of the latter being from patent claims). Reproduction is adequate as an accompaniment to the text. Although the subtitle calls this an illustrated history, the real strength of the book is in the text; better and more comprehensive illustrations are available elsewhere. A comprehensive 17-page index is provided.

The new introduction to this edition, by Courtney B. Wilson, points out that "As a writer August Mencken will always remain in the shadow of his brother [H. L. Mencken]". This is perhaps the literary equivalent of saying without sarcasm that a particular scientist is not quite as smart as Einstein. Such a statement is actually a high complement! This pioneering book about passenger cars and travel shows that August Mencken benefited from sharing many of the genes (or the environment) that graced H. L. Mencken the editor. The book is a well-written classic: an insightful

analysis of the development of passenger cars and the travel experience. The thoughtful selection of narratives reflects the humor as well as the solid scholarship you would expect of a Mencken.

John Austen
Arlington VA

Fun Facts

From the November 10, 1928 edition of **Railway Age** comes this note that one and a half million soft shell crabs, 20,000 gallons of crab meat and 1,000 bbls. (barrels) of hard crabs moved from Crisfield, Md., over the Pennsylvania during the week of August 20. This week broke all records for crab shipments. They moved by rail over the Pennsylvania and its subsidiary steamship lines.

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Editor, Turntable Times
Roanoke Chapter NRHS
P.O. Box 13222
Roanoke, VA 24032-1322

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

June 21, 2001
Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm

July 3, 2001
Board Meeting, 7:30 pm

July 19, 2001
General Meeting

Chapter Outing
July 28-29, 2001, Strasburg and more!

August 7, 2001
Board Meeting, 7:30 pm

August 16, 2001
General Meeting

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Roanoke, VA Permit No. 89
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