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THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT

SECTION TWO
16 PAGES

The Journal-Patriot Has Blazed the Trail of Progress In the "State of Wilkes" For Over 43 Years

Vol. 44, No. 4 Published Mondays and Thursdays NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C., Thursday, April 28, 1949 Make North Wilkesboro Your Shopping Center

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SEEKING TO OPERATE MIXED TRAIN INSTEAD PASSENGER TO WINSTON-SALEM

Southern Railway Company has filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission for consent and approval for substituting mixed service for straight passenger service on trains 13 and 14, operating between Winston-Salem and North Wilkesboro, according to Ben L. Stanfiel, superintendent of the railway. "Mixed service," he explained, is a combination of passenger and freight equipment "adequate to handle the business offered."

"Trains 13 and 14 are operating in the red year after year," Superintendent Stanfiel said. "For every dollar they bring in we are now paying out over \$2.37 in direct expenses alone. Total direct expenses of almost \$71,000, not including such items as supervision, dispatching

maintenance of roadway and structures and depreciation, exceeded total revenues by more than \$41,000 in the year ending February 28."

Railroads have been severely criticized by the public, and especially by shippers, he added, for not eliminating unprofitable, little-used passenger services that greatly add to railroad costs. By operating Nos. 13 and 14 as mixed trains instead of as straight passenger trains, "we can effect a substantial reduction in operating costs—for the benefit of all."

Revenues from passenger fares on the trains for the entire 12 months ending February 28 were less than \$5,000. Mr. Stanfiel pointed out. The total of all revenues including that received from handling express and mail, a little more than \$29,000, failed to cover the cost of train-crew wages and fuel, he said.

Mr. Stanfiel said that when the mixed service is authorized the express traffic now handled on the passenger trains will be carried by the Southern in the mixed trains. Mail will be carried by the Post Office Department over the highways, he added, and "we feel certain this method of handling will entirely satisfy the public."

Six years of continuous drought in Arizona came to an end during the snow season of the past winter.

Governor Scott's Aid Requested In Retaining Train

The following letter from the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce to Governor W. Kerr Scott seeks to enlist the aid of the governor in retaining the passenger and express train to North Wilkesboro daily, separate from freight service:

April 26, 1949.

Governor Kerr Scott
Capitol Building,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dear Governor Scott:
Mr. B. L. Stanfiel, Supt. Southern Railway with offices in Winston-Salem, met with members of the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce yesterday to discuss a proposal of the Southern Railway to remove the passenger train between Winston-Salem and North Wilkesboro and establish one mixed train carrying freight, express, mail and passengers.

From the information obtained, such a change, if approved by the N. C. Utilities Commission, would result in a 24-hour delay in mail delivery and would work a severe hardship on the poultry dealers and other express shippers in the Wilkes area. The mixed train, which is proposed, is scheduled to leave North Wilkesboro at 8:45, meaning that young chicks from the hatcheries would have to be crated for shipping the day previous, lay over at the depot over night waiting to be shipped the next morning. Our hatcheries state that this would result in a much larger percentage of deaths and would tremendously handicap their businesses.

You are no doubt aware of the fact that the poultry business, including large shipments of feed, is one of the largest phases of agriculture in Wilkes County. Through the agricultural agencies and the chamber of commerce we have been doing everything possible to encourage and expand the poultry business in this section, and it would be very discouraging to have the Southern Railway create such a handicap to this growing industry.

In questioning the railway superintendent, he seemed to have only figures regarding the losses of the railroad on the passenger train. He stated that the freight train was one of the best from a profit-making standpoint of any branch of the Southern Railway, but stated he had no figures on this train. He neither was able to furnish figures showing the overall picture of both the passenger and freight trains taken together.

The Wilkes Chamber of Commerce has no other choice but to oppose this action of the Southern Railway, when it comes before the Utilities Commission. Knowing of your intensive and continued interest in the agricultural development of N. C., we felt that it would be wise to inform you of this proposed action and the impending hardships that would result from inadequate express and mail delivery.

Sincerely yours,
TOM S. JENNETTE, Manager,
Wilkes Chamber of Commerce.

Penney Fashion Show Friday 29

The J. C. Penney Spring Fashion Show will again be sponsored by the Junior Woman's club. On Friday night, April 29th, at 8:00 o'clock in the auditorium of the city hall, the latest in spring fashions will be modeled. Attractive ladies will model dresses for the tiny tots, teenagers, college girls and young ladies.

Tickets will be given each spectator at the door to be held for prizes to be drawn during the show. The City Florist is presenting a lovely orchid to the oldest lady attending the show. John Cashion of radio station W.K.B.C. will be the narrator for the show.

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