

'Golden Age' Of Railroading Puffs On In Special Outings

By William J. O'Neill
National Geographic News

For generations of Americans a train whistle in the night exerted a haunting, Pied Piper pull. That drawn-out not quavering in the dark air roused a restless urge to leave everything and follow the gleaming rails to visionary places beyond the horizon. Diesel horns, despite their potent bass timbre of power, do not stir the spirit quite the way the whistle of a steam locomotive did. Perhaps it's because railroads today are usually associated with freight, not travel. In the National Geographic Society's new book, "Railroads: The Great American Adventure," Charlton Ogburn remembers how it was 50 years ago in his boyhood. "We were all more or less in thrall to the steam engine," he relates. "It was the middle '20s; passenger airlines were unknown, and long motor trips exceptional. Travel, and the romance and excitement of far places, meant steam -- steamships and steam locomotives." Rail lines have been dieselized for years, yet youngsters and railroad buffs of all ages can still ride behind vintage locomotives on special outings. Mr. Ogburn notes

that many of the old steam engines have been spared from the scrap heap.

Oiled and polished until they glisten, the 150-ton engines are fired up in the warm vacation months to pull trainloads of fans. Passengers range from nostalgic oldsters to children who have never before seen the wonder of steam exploding from cylinders when the heavy pistons spin those massive drive wheels.

The author joined one such group for the run from Alexandria to Charlottesville in Virginia behind a 1911 Mikado engine, and found that "No. 4501 brings back the past on her summer excursions."

"And surely she did that for us as she roared through the green Piedmont," he writes, "a barrel-chested charger, rods churning, exhausts coming in trip-hammer tempo."

"How that whistle brings people out," observed one of the Passengers. Mr. Ogburn reports that people came from farm buildings and houses and from shops in towns to stand and wave as the whistle loosed the fluted wail that tugs at the soul the way few sounds do.

The big engines are drawing

crowds in many parts of the country where railroads, historical societies, and coterie of loyal "steam-chasers" band together to keep them rolling.

On a branch line of the Denver and Rio Grande Western that is a national historic monument, three engines provide daily passenger service between Durango and Silverton in Colorado every summer -- and never lack for riders.

In the view of Mr. Ogburn and his friends, a little soot and an occasional cinder is a small price for the privilege of hearing "those six-foot drivers pounding the rails" and the siren song of that whistle.

Troublesome Fire Ants In U.S. South To Stay

By William J. O'Neill
National Geographic News

As if the news hasn't been gloomy enough of late, the government's \$150 million campaign to wipe out fire ants now is being called the "Vietnam of entomology."

In a domestic version of peace with honor, residents of areas infested with the ants are being advised to live and let live. In other words, the imported insects aren't about to roll over and play dead.

The ants, named for their fiery sting, come in two species, both mean, the National Geographic Society says.

Solenopsis richteri, a black ant, probably came to Mobile, Alabama in late 1918 aboard a ship from South America. Its cousin, *Solenopsis invicta*, a red ant, presumably arrived the same way and was first reported in that state in the early 1930s.

Establishing a beachhead, the invaders proceeded to march. The black ant has entrenched itself in a small area of Mississippi and Alabama.

The red fire ant has spread through those two states, as well as Louisiana, Georgia, and Florida, a large part of Texas and South Carolina, and the southern portion of Arkansas and North Carolina.

Unchecked by natural enemies in their adopted land, the ant colonies multiplied until today from five to ten billion fire ants occupy more than 150 million acres in nine southern states -- often the best farmland.

Ant hills almost two feet high dot fields, pastures, parks, and playgrounds, wherever the land is cleared and warm. The mounds damage farm machinery and interfere with plowing.

Until mechanized equipment became widespread, some fields were untended because workers were afraid to venture near the bristling obstructions.

If an ant hill is disturbed, an army of defenders scuttles out to repel the intruder. Each ant grips a pinch of skin with its mandibles, then arches its back and jabs a dozen times or more with its stinger. Victims may receive several

thousand stings within seconds of being attacked.

The stings raise burning blisters and sometimes trigger an allergic reaction that can send a person to a hospital in shock. Tales of fatal attacks and of the ants killing chicks, piglets, and calves are exaggerated, but the insect hordes can damage crops and orchards.

The ants do some good, however, killing ticks and flies that bother cattle and insects that damage sugar cane.

Scientists believe the tropical fire ant has reached the limit of its northern range and is unlikely to move further north. Neither will it go away, particularly since Mirex, the pesticide most often used to kill the ants, is being phased out as an environmental hazard.

A Florida entomologist who has worked on the fire ant problem admits: "We couldn't eradicate this thing with an atomic bomb."

DID YOU KNOW - ?

THAT GOVERNMENT ALONE CANNOT PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY IN A CIVIL DEFENSE EMERGENCY?

EMERGENCY PLANNING CALLS FOR USE OF MANY KINDS OF RESOURCES IN EVENT OF NUCLEAR DISASTER.



YOU ARE IN THE PICTURE!

PERSONAL AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS IS ESSENTIAL TO COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS
MORE FACTS?
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CIVIL DEFENSE

SCC Summer Commencement Ceremony Scheduled Aug. 19

The twelfth Summer Commencement ceremony at Sandhills Community College will be held Friday evening August 19, and in keeping with the precedent set in the spring commencement in May, recognition will be given to members of the Board of Trustees.

The speaker for the occasion will be J.C. Robbins, of Aberdeen, who

has served as secretary of the Board since it was organized in 1963. Sandhills was the first new comprehensive community college authorized by the State Board of Education following passage of the General Assembly bill establishing a state-wide system of technical institutes and community colleges. Robbins, once president of North Carolina Community College Trustees Association, a prominent businessman and civic leader in Moore County, is a native North Carolinian and a graduate of UNC - Chapel Hill. Always interested in education, he taught for several years and was principal of Aberdeen High School, before purchasing a hardware business to which he has devoted his time for several decades. Mrs. Robbins still teaches in the Moore County school system.

Robbins and Dr. W.E. Alexander, vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees since the beginning, will be awarded Honorary Associate in Humanities Degrees by Sandhills Community College, at the August commencement. Honorary degrees were presented at the May commencement to six other original members of the Board in appreciation for their dedicated service to the college.

Nearly 100 students will receive associate degrees and diplomas during the formal exercises in the Fountain Courtyard on the Sandhills campus. A reception for graduates and their families and program participants hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Stone, will be held in the Student Lounge at the close of the ceremony.

FLIP THE SWITCH ON ENERGY WASTE!

Gasoline, Fuel Oil, Electricity, Natural Gas

PAINT UP - FIX UP
With Supplies From
The Decor Center
J.R. Kennedy
111 WEST ELWOOD RAEFORD

Beautify Your Home!!

★★★ On The Spot Financing ★★★
★ WE DO OUR OWN ★

OUR SPECIALTY STORAGE BUILDINGS

Custom Built Add On Rooms And Screen Porches

UNDER PINNING AWNINGS

No Middle Man - Direct Factory Prices
Example: 20 ft. by 10 ft. Canopies
\$200.00 plus tax and freight
\$25.00 Down 12 Payments ea. \$17.77

Country Fair Mobile Homes
529 HARRIS AVENUE RAEFORD, N.C. PHONE: 875-4807

New Peak Set July 20 By Electricity Users

The demand for electricity on the Carolina Power & Light Co. system hit its highest point in history on Wednesday, July 20.

The previous summertime record demand which occurred on July 29 last year already has been surpassed on five days within the past two weeks, though the all-time record still at 5,509 megawatts (mw) recorded during very cold weather on January 17, 1977.

A new record was set Wednesday when a heavy air conditioning load on top of all other uses pushed demand to 5,597 mw, an increase of 9.3 percent over last summer's high of 5,121.

According to CP&L President Sherwood H. Smith, Jr., the company maintained several hun-

dred megawatts of reserve generating capacity through the period of peak demand and experienced no significant problems in serving its customers.

Smith said CP&L is encouraging conservation, however, particularly during the peak demand hours of 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. He cited conservation as the most immediate and direct means for individuals to hold their electric bills as low as possible.

"Conservation during the peak demand period is additionally important to consumers on a long-term basis," Smith said, "because growth in the peak has a direct bearing on how many new generating plants we will have to build."

Three Hurt In Wreck

Three men were injured, one critically, Saturday morning in a two-car wreck at the intersection of 401 Business and Prospect Ave.

Highway Patrolman R.V. Lee said that William Archie Matthews, 17, of Autryville was driving a 1976 Dodge eastbound on Prospect Ave. and failed to stop at the intersection. The Dodge struck a 1970 Pontiac traveling southbound on U.S. 401 Business at the left front wheel portion of the car and propelled both vehicles into a ditch and field area on the east side of U.S. 401.

Lee said that both cars were considered destroyed with the damage listed at \$4,200. Matthews, a Fayetteville Times

carrier returning from deliveries in Southern Pines and Vass, was admitted to Cape Fear Valley Hospital and is listed as in stable condition in intensive care there.

The driver of the Pontiac, Harold Gustav Koch, 21, of Fayetteville, was treated for a broken wrist and facial injuries.

David Hudson, 25, also of Fayetteville, was listed in satisfactory condition by the hospital.

No citations have been served. Trooper Lee noted that the intersection where the accident occurred has during a three week period seen two bad accidents involving seven injuries and four totaled vehicles. In one of the accidents two new vehicles valued at \$14,000 were totaled.

Scouts Enjoy Outing

Cub Scouts of Pack 404 and their parents attended an outing Saturday at Weymouth Woods in Aberdeen.

They were provided with a tour through the museum, viewed a slide presentation of plants and animals native to North Carolina. The scouts also took a trail hike to see the plants and animals in their natural habitat.

The following awards were presented: David McLean, Bobcat Badge; David Butler, Bear Badge and Gold Arrow; David Newton, Bear Badge and Gold Arrow; David Simmons, Bear Badge; John Sappenfield, Citizen Activity Badge.

SUPPORT YOUR HOKE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Help beat inflation

Ask your Nationwide agent about Nationwide's Homeowners Insurance with built-in inflation protection! Call today.



M. VARDELL HEDGPETH
121 West Elwood Avenue
Raeford, N. Carolina 28376
875-4187

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE
Nationwide is on your side
Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
Home Office: Columbus, Ohio

Trophies by Sportworld Classics, Inc.

from
Wesnell Engraving Service

506 E. Central Ave.
Raeford, N. C. 28376 875-5655

LEWIS GREY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

BROTHERS JOHNSON
ENCHANTMENT
Comedian Rodney Winfield
BRICK
and Special Guest
SLAVE

Friday, July 29, 8:00 p.m.
Cumberland County Memorial Arena

Tickets Advance \$6.25 \$7.25 Day of Show
Tickets available at Arena Box Office

Sir William III
336 RAY AVENUE FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.
2 BIG NIGHTS
Friday and Saturday Nights - July 29th & 30th 9:30 until 1:30
Clifford Curry
Hit Songs: "She Shot A Hole In My Soul"
"I'm Gonna Hate Myself In The Morning"
ADVANCE TICKETS \$4.00 AT THE DOOR \$5.00
THIS AD GOOD FOR \$1.00 OFF ADMISSION
TEL. 483-9961
Our Next Attraction: Chairmen of the Board