

Minutes of the GNRHS officers' Meeting on July 29, 1984 at East Glacier  
Lodge, Montana

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Present were Norman Keyes, William McGinley, Louis Bushfield, Martin Evoy, and Raymond Chappell. Norman Keyes presided in the absence of Charles Wood. Wolfgang Weber was represented by Norman Keyes who held Wolfgang's proxy.

The minutes of the Officers' Meeting for 1983 in Fargo were accepted as published, and were not read.

The Treasurer indicated that the Society's financial status was as indicated in the June 1984 report mailed to the officers plus added income of about \$200 in July. This report was accepted as presented.

The Secretary reported that during the past year his office took care of 170 inquiries, cared for 26 non-receipt of GOATs, made 49 address changes, processed 22 orders for calendars, and took in 242 new members. Bill McGinley noted that some of the new member total included members who were returning to the Society. This is correct; but determining who these are as they join if they do not indicate that they are rejoining, is very difficult. Thus the rejoining as a new member does happen.

Ray Chappell reported that his basement is again filling. He believes that this situation will become a burdon within a year or two. The rental of a storage locker to hold some of this stock was mentioned as a possible solution to that problem. Bill McGinley noted that Stewart Holmquist has recently completed negotiations for space for AFE records with the Dakota County Historical Society. Perhaps some of this could be used for back issue storage. Ray and Lou will watch this situation and work out a solution when needed.

Norman Keyes reported for Wolfgang Weber on the copy of Rudolf Beer's report on the 1984 Overseas Meeting. Wolfgang returned two points on this report. The meeting was poorly attended. Mr. and Mrs. Kolb had done considerable work in preparation for the meeting, and a number of indicated attendees did not follow up on plan changes with the Kolbs, and did not send money in advance. It was strictly a model railroading meeting, not GN oriented. There was a lack of interest indicated in slides of GN Country shown. Introduction of attendees and language were problems. Wolfgang left one day earlier than planned because of a lack of GN orientation to items being discussed. Rudolf Beer had joined the gathering, which started on a Wednesday, on Friday night and may not have had a full perspective of events. Ron Schuck attended the meeting, as did Alfons Neuhauser, who was to be at the Glacier meet. Wolfgang's departure was in disappointment.

It was agreed that a combination of positive notes from Rudolf's and Wolfgang's reports would be used for publication.

Bill McGinley reported that he had located a number (500 or 1,000) information brochures that can be distributed. Also, to provide for future needs, 2500 (timetable) fronts for the brochure have been printed. The back of the form is edited and in a word processor, indicating that a Calendar is published every year, reflecting that the non-profit status has changed (Bill to check with Greg Johnson before that is used), with the bottom wording on the application deleted, and sustaining membership benefits expanded. In practice, paper plates could be made of this side, and the immediately needed number of finished brochures could be printed, with this side being in black ink. Lou Bushfield requested that a question of new members' desires on giving their names to purchasers of the membership list be included on the questionnaire. Bill Agreed. Lou also noted that a new printing would be needed for the 1985 NMRA convention.

It was noted that there are plenty of membership cards in the Secretary's hands.

All officers have a supply of 3 part telegraph forms except Chuck Wood. The Secretary will mail Chuck some.

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A copy of the new envelope postal permit should go to Stan Townsend for his use in printing envelopes for dues renewal. Bill will sent some to Stan. (Lou noted that dues renewal worked very well last year.)

Lou Bushfield reported, as an adendum to the Treasurer's Report that follow up by Ray Chappell had reveiled that a mailing from Ray to Lou, containing 6 or 7 checks for back issue payment had been lost in transit. Lou wrote to all involved, asking for replacement checks, and has received two so far. The Society's loss, if no more chacks are received, will not exceed \$100.

Noman Keyes reported on his activities as Vice President for Technical Services. The statistical question results have been reported in the mail. There were a few essay type questions which provided material of value. The general level of correspondance remains at 10 to 20 letters per week. There has been some activity in the Technical Committee area thru which Norman is working to get some people to write reference sheets.

Dale Peterka's resolution, asking the Society to support and work for the restoration of GN engine 1246 was discussed. There were concerns on the tax status of the restoration group and its effects on the Society, if we support them by more than advertisement of their needs and activities. Greg Johnson had indicated to Lou Bushfield that financial support of a non-tax exempt organization could cause anything from taxing of all moneys raised for the supported group to loss of Society non-profit status. It was decided that the 1246 restoration group should spell out to the Society in detail their status and what their plans are. It was agreed that the Society is not in a position to lend any financial support or manpower support to the effort of 1246 restoration. Norman Keyes was to discuss the situation with Dale Peterka before the membership meeting.

The restoration of GN1355 in Sioux City was reviewed. The activities of the group doing this work, which is alive and progressing, have to be considered also in dealing with the 1246 group. The 1355 group has made arrangements for transport of their locomotive to the ICG's last engine house stall in Sioux City for restoration of locomotive and tender. The boiler has passes the FRA inspection. Restoration personal have been recruited. Norman Keyes had suggested to the 1355 group that a Society member could be put on their Board in an unofficial, liaison position. No reply on this or that groups interests for help from the Society have been received.

Correspondance had been received by Norman Keyes from the NMRA, Milwaukee Convention Committee which asked the Society what its wishes were in participating in the 1985 NMRA convention. Norman had replied that the Society would like to participate in the convention, manning a booth (as was done in Winnipeg), possibly having a meeting room, having a hospitality room, and that the Society would provide a clinic. It was thought that Dan Mitchel would develop this from his library of slides, principally from the 1976 trip. It was judged that the Society's financial obligation would be "a couple of hundred bucks". It was noted that the Society's presence at NMRA conventions provide new members to the Scoiety, produce contacts with local individuals who provide historical data, and provide exposure of the Great Northern Ry. to model manufacturers.

It was moved and passed that the Society establish, as a target figure \$175.00 Milwaukee Convention Fund, to be adjusted appropriately by consensus of the officers.

A banner for convention booths and other type gatherings was discussed. Lou Bushfield and Ray Chappell, individually, will investigate the cost of having such a banner produced. It should be on flexible fabric (oil cloth) hemmed, and grommetted. A size of 4' x 5' to 4' x 6' was suggested. Norman Keyes has a photograph of the Society's old banner.

Ray Chappell has instructed his printer to send bills directly to Lou for payment to allow taking the offered 2% discount.

It was reported that the 1985, St. Paul convention will be held from

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Tuesday, August 6 to Thursday, August 8, Tentative convention sight is the Radison in St. Paul, on Kellogg in downtown St. Paul @ \$85/night. The Sheridan Midway was an alternate hotel. For convention activities, there are possibly a tour of BN business car shops and use of Minnesota Transportation Museum's NP steam locomotive on ex-GN track.

The \$85/night room charge for the intended convention hotel was deemed to be too high by the officers. Lou Bushfield was requested to convey this to Jim Chinquist that night and to determine if firm commitments had been made to that hotel, primarily so that the membership could be told of the situation in the membership meeting.

It was noted that the Society needs to have convention guidelines and a convention chairman (coordinator). Having these will aid in producing smoother conventions. *L B + ME appointed to develop these*

In response to a 46% indicated preference for Spokane to be the 1986 convention site, this city was selected as the Society's 1986 site. The week of July 14th. was chosen as the time period, to put it in concert with the NMRA, NRHS convention in Boston. The wisdom of a three day convention was discussed. It was decided that three days works well and that there should be activities planned for all three days of the gatherings. The possibility of having the banquet on the second night was discussed. It was felt that this function was the finale of a convention and the social high point of the period. Thus it should be kept for the 3rd. night.

It was moved and passed that Mike Denuty, of Spokane, be invited to be 1986 convention liason officer.

As acting president, Norman Keyes appointed Raymond Chappell as Nominating Committee Chairman. There was considerable discussion on the timing of announcing elections, the forming of the nominating committee, the announcement of the committee's results, and the actual election. No specific action was taken other than Ray's appointment.

Stan Townsend, cochairman of the 1984 convention committee, came to the meeting and was asked to start registration on Sunday night. This could not be done because the entire committee would not be on hand until later. Concern about communicating a schedule of events to attendees was expressed by the officers, and Stan indicated that schedules were posted in the hotel (on the front desk specifically). Also, Stan indicated that attendees could visit the displays before actually being registered. Lack of name tags being worn by people wandering in the display area was mentioned by the Board. This apparently occurred in Fargo. In light of registration being started on Monday morning, the officers were given their name tags in this meeting.

Stan was asked to contact a non-member (living in Kalispell) who wished to attend the swap meet. It was agreed that he should be allowed to attend if he paid a registration fee. Stan made the contact.

Items for sale to members: There was expressed an interest on the Board to continue efforts toward such sales. Sale/promotion of only one item at a time. The Board should have a preliminary look at cost of sale items. Such items should contain the Society logo with the true herald of the railroad, possibly with Great Northern Ry. Historical Society abbreviated. Then with an idea of cost and minimum quantities, decide if the item will be sold. A patch might have higher priority because it is highest on the interest survey rating and is the lowest cost. It was moved and passed that we recommend to the Promotion Chairman, after the President, that a membership saleable item design be prepared to reflect the Great Northern herald and the current GNRHS logo, which could be suitable for pins, patches, decals, or other items; and that the Promotion Chairman prepare costs of pins and patches for the officers to evaluate. Norman Keyes was to contact Ron Ferrel on this.

Bill McGinley reported on potential film library beginnings. The Society now owns four copies of Empire on Parade, two copies of Face to Live, two

color and one black & white copies of Glacier National Park, and one copy of Big Mountain Ski Area, given from the Great Northern film library. Bill proposed that these films form the nucleus of a Society lending library. He also suggested that the Society purchase a 16 mm, sound copy of Conquering the Cascades for \$40.00, and a vidio copy of Through the Car Window. Bill would not work on distribution of the films but would work on setting up a library in lending ability. Lou Bushfield recommended that only vidio copies be lent. Guidelines should be established on handling the library.

It was moved and passed to spend up to \$50.00 to purchase the 16 mm, sound film of Conquering the Cascades.

The only exchange publications that Bill McGinley is receiving are from the SOO Line Society, the Santa Fe Society, and the Montana Hist. Soc. There is no change in the policy on this matter.

Pricing of back issues: Lou and Ray are going to study costs of re-printing. It was noted that reprinting costs may rise shortly because of issues going to larger sizes. Experience in Ray's office indicates that back issue sales income exceeds expenses. This is being watched with actual income, actual costs and publication inventory value to indicate this cost/income balance. It was suggested that if the Society's dues are raised, giving no increase in services; then the price of back issues should be raised a corresponding per centage. No action was taken on this idea.

NMRA Authors' Points: Lou Bushfield presented the contents of a letter he received on this subject from the NMRA Achievements Awards Chairman. It indicated, "Articles published in magazines such as the GOAT must make connection, within the article, with model railroading, either with track drawings like those in M.R., on 'A Railroad You Can Model' building drawings, in one of the scales, or equipment drawings that are in some way related to the article contents. It doesn't have to be an article for actual modeling, just that some connection to the contents of the above. A straight article on the portion of the railroad with pictures would not qualify. An article on a portion of the railraod with pictures and depot drawings in, say, HO, would qualify." Upon qualifying questions, he again wrote, "'Should the article contain specific reference to model railroading?'. No, it need not; but the plans of structures, equipment, etc. must be in one of the recognized scales - HO, O, N, etc., in order to qualify for A.P. credit. You state that you have published track plans of nearly all the GN yards. Just the track plans of a prototype yard is not really model railroading. Most of the prototype yards can not be done in a model layout; but if the article converted what is a prototype yard into a model plan, then it would be qualified. In other words, Lou, some connection to scale model rail roading must be made in the article, but it doesn't have to actually be an article on modeling."

The ramifications of this information were discussed at length, and the basic ideas developed were that published drawings should be in one of the recognized scales, material published should generally be in a form that helps the modeler, even the scratch builder when possible, and where understood, material should fit NMRA A.P. standards. Bill McGinley proposed that he develop a multi-step form for material submitted to him for publication. It would indicate receipt of the material. It would ask the author if he is interested in the A.P. program so that editing of material will attempt to conform to A.P. standards. (The author would be expected to indicate this wish if he is interested.)

Bill will work up an announcement for the GOAT, telling the membership that the Society is willing to work with authors to make material fit NMRA A.P. guidelines. Authors will be expected to inform the editor of their wishes to have their material fit those guidelines. This notice should also be sent to new members at the time of their joining.

Mailing list fee determination: After some discussion, it was moved and

passed to increase the amount charged for a GNRHS membership list in the form of mailing labels, from \$25.00 to \$40.00.

The desire of the membership to have the Society sell or have sold a prototypically correct freight car was discussed at length. There are several options open to the Society. Lou Bushfield is to get together with Staffan Ehnbohm to try to select an appropriate car model and to work on the details of production.

There was considerable discussion on the Society's current financial position and the rate of spending on the GOAT. It appears that recent GOATs are costing about \$3,800 per issue where as they were costing about \$2,500 per issue the last time an officer could remember such a cost being derived. It appears that the printer is pushing his prices fairly rapidly, and Bill will discuss this situation with that firm. Also we are asking the printer to do more things, which increases our costs. One means to cut service costs that we will take is to have only issues that are to be mailed at the time of publication fully assembled. The parts will be mailed to the Assistant Treasurer and to the Secretary for them to assemble as these officers mail issues.

It was noted that the membership survey results indicated favorable opinion on dues increase for increased quantity and quality, and it was felt that there had been that increase in the current publication.

It was asked what was being done about the erroneously announced yearly dues and the availability of a life membership in Mainline Modeler. The Secretary indicated that a letter had been sent to that magazine, asking for correction in upcoming advertising.

It was moved and passed to raise the regular yearly dues from \$12.50 per year to \$15.00 per year.

Paying for articles published in the GOAT was discussed. Problems recognized with the idea were: Would this attract more writers? (No positive thoughts were advanced.) An editorial board would have to decide what is published or what is not and what is a major article and what is a minor article to be fair and to avoid member dissatisfactions. It was moved and seconded that we establish a policy of paying authors of accepted manuscripts. The motion was defeated.

The appointment of Stewart R. Holmquist to the "official family" of the GNRHS, in light of his indicated interest in this, his research for the Society, and his current work with the newly acquired 1896 to 1915 GN AFE records was discussed; and it was agreed that this should be done. After some discussion, it was moved and passed that Stewart be appointed as Chairman of Research Technical Committee, with the title of Senior Research Associate, with the duties assigned by the Vice President for Technical Services.

It was thought that Stewart's position and title should do the following:

1. Assist with a creditability factor in his contacts with the outside.
2. To recognize his efforts for the Society.
3. To insulate him from inundations of requests for services.

The fact that AFE files require Stewart's efforts to a great extent, perhaps 100%, has made a change in duties and has clouded the original concepts of the job that began to be described in February 1984. The question of whether Stewart agrees with this change in direction or feels that a dual roll of AFE work and his previously performed work was to be asked of him by the Secretary on August 10.

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There remained concern on the Board that Stewart might be overloaded with requests from members for him to provide material or services that he will not, or he may be reluctant to turn down. This concern will probably cause the appointment to be soft peddled in the GOAT. This lack of publicity would probably be increased after the possible receipt of the 1915 to 1970 AFE records. Other opinion indicated that Stewart should have the opportunity to receive members' interests that he can work on at his leisure. This will be questioned on August 10.

How to handle the announcement of receipt of AFE records was discussed. It was felt that perhaps mention of receipt of the 1896 to 1915 AFE records might be in order, but the announcement that the Society was trying to get the later records must not be made. It might stop the negotiations. It might get the Burlington Northern in trouble with the Federal Government. It might cause problems for a BN employee.

How to properly thank the Burlington Northern for the records, once the transfer is complete was discussed. Announcement in the GOAT, a letter to the proper person in the BN organization, or both are possibilities. The Secretary will question that on August 10.

It was noted that Stewart is in the process of printing the glass plate negatives that Bill McGinley had been working with.

There was some discussion on how the Society letterhead headings should be changed to fit the increasing number of support people who have been added to the officer staff. No action was taken on this.

Survey Results: The question was raised as to whether the survey gave us any direction to go with the publication. These ideas were noted. Of the three options for GOAT material emphasis, historical presentations with modeling considerations was the major choice of responding members. How-to-do-it model building was a poor third. There was a strong interest in having photographs published. Reference sheets relating to equipment and structures were most popular. The wrapper piece on electricians was unpopular. Tie standards and Northern Steam Ship pieces were unpopular. The calendar showed 84% (high interest); GN album of photos, 79%; as opposed to Form 19 at 43% and employee timetables at 35%. This seems to indicate a reference sheet of photographs with extensive captions in an issue would be a popular item and could possibly save time and money.

In examining a photograph of Tye, Wash., Bill noted that his experience has indicated that best black and white photo quality can often be obtained by producing a smaller (5x7 or 3x4) photographic print and then having the halftone production process enlarge the image more, if necessary.

In discussing a copy of a blue print of a 1905 Kalispell coaling station, it was noted that use of a reply form by the Editor for material received, would improve understanding between contributors and the Editor. Bill will work on developing such a form and put it into use.

Editor's Stipend: The original draft setting up the stipend has not been found, and a replacement draft has not been made. It was suggested that the Treasurer and the Secretary work together to produce a new agreement, to be sent to the V.P. for Pub. for approval. This document may be needed to show what the expense is and that the Society does not have a salaried employee.

FICA contributions by the Society on the stipend was discussed. How the actual contribution by the Society is gotten into IRS hands, thru Fed. Reserve Banking is complicated. However, because of the small amount to be paid, payment goes directly to IRS.

It was suggested that to in essence, not have Bill pay FICA tax, the Society increase the stipend to \$165/quarter. It was questioned if Bill was now paying maximum FICA tax levied per year. Bill will check on this and then the Society will investigate its options. Lou will discuss this situation with Greg Johnson.



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Longevity of the Editor: Bill indicated that preparing the GOAT is becoming a chore and is still causing problems at home. The Editor's job is no longer fun, and Bill feels "burned out". The question was asked, if and when Bill steps down, who would take over? How do we find such an individual? The questionnaire did not show any potential replacements.

The Society received a notice from a Chicagoian who publishes the GM&O Society publication. His work was shown to the Board. He can not now handle anything from us, but his idea of what he would do in the future is to take material from the typewriter stage to the printed publication for between \$700 and \$1,000 per issue. Someone would still have to select articles, type them, suggest layout corrections and validate or chase loose ends, write captions for pictures, etc.

How to help Bill is apparently a problem. There is apparently a question of what assistance to the Editor means and where such assistance can be given. Can others prepare material, have it camera ready, and send it to Bill? Bill noted that the June 1984 issue of the GOAT was one that he edited only. He did not participate integrally in the formation of it. Bill did have to letter some drawings. Bill has had problems with volunteers not following instructions.

A way to reduce Bill's load can also be to give to Hubbard the job of producing material in a proof form, ready for pasteup instead of using a student to work a typesetter at \$5.50/hr. This would save Bill 5-10 sessions at the typesetter at 1-3 hrs./session. This would cost \$20-30/page (\$500-600/issue more). Would the use of more photographs save money? Unknown.

There were several members who indicated interest (in the survey) in taking submitted manuscripts and shaping them up. Bill was given the names of several of these members to contact. He will write to them and then call them on the possibility of their helping him. It was also felt that there have to be some strong pitches in the GOAT for mechanical help in the production of the GOAT itself and also in preparation of manuscripts for the GOAT.

The question of what can be done to smooth the waters with Staffan Ehnborn was presented. Some fence mending has been done already. (Secretarial Note: Prompt return of submitted material and correction of believed to be incorrect photo captions were stated by Staffan to me as the only unresolved problems. Staffan's interests have, however, gone to other organizations specializing in freight cars.)

Martin Evoy presented to the Board, copies of a piece he wrote in past years which called for members with different talents but interests in structures to join him in working on the Structures Technical Committee, as an example of the type of strong, specific request that could be made for help. Norman was asked to read this copy and decide if he could use it as a model for similar calls for help or a general call for help.

Norman indicated that he is close to filling technical committee chairmanships. It is hoped that these people will produce material. It was felt that this material may not always be up to current GOAT standards. However, this less polished material should be used to both give volume to the publication and to encourage more people to write. Insistence on superpolished works has to be modified. Some polishing will still have to be done. It is possible for the V.P. for Tech. Serv. to do this or have his assistant do this on pieces sent to him by his technical committee chairmen. It was also noted that technical committee chairmen have to have ways of communicating their needs to the general membership.

Norman will send a form letter to all persons indicating interest in technical committee work to tell them that their names are going to appropriate technical committee chairmen for their action and contact. He will next ask each chairman to write a short blurb for the GOAT detailing what is needed or wanted in his area. These second appeals or a single appeal should appear in the GOAT soon, hopefully in the December issue. It is

also felt that chairmen's names should be published and published often.

It was noted that many survey respondents wanted to do model critiques - in the face of the fact that few members wanted them in the publication.

It was noted that follow ups on prospective authors was needed. (Those who said they would do a piece, are known to have material, but do not put out) People need to be jogged. Bill does not have time and energy to do this type of follow up. Can someone be found to be like an administrative assistant for such matters?

It appears that overall help in this situation will come if there is increased cooperation between Bill and Norman on material development. This will be tried. Norman may need assistance in this effort, and he is considering John Westley (Wash., D.C.) and Paul Zinc (Richmond).

It was noted that people who volunteer their help have to be told what we want them to do, specifically. This may be hard to do.

It was noted that a set of Constitution and By-Laws should be sent to the membership. Dues change will change the By-Laws. It was suggested that each officer review current copies of the By-Laws and advise Bill of any needed change in it. It was noted that some survey replies objected to having to vote on an entire document rather than just changes.

The Secretary requested that new copies of the Constitution and the revised By-Laws be sent to every current member as part of the GOAT and that he be given a supply of both so that sets can be sent to new members as they join. It was decided to print this supply for the December issue, send sets to all current members in that issue, and send all extra sets to the Secretary for later distribution to new members.

It was recommended that an item, separate from the meeting minutes, be published in the September GOAT, announcing the dues increase.

Ray Chappell indicated that if it would save the Society money, he would cullate the various segments of the GOATs sold as back issues, rather than having the printer do this. This would save money, so Bill will see if this can be done for Back Issue copies and for Secretary's copies.

The meeting was adjourned with a sigh. Respectively submitted,  
Martin Evoy, Secretary.