

# HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TIMETABLE COLLECTORS

By Richard Stair

During one of the Harrisburg conventions, I asked Howard Sanford of Harrisburg, PA if he remembered how the National Association of Timetable Collectors started. Howard Sanford said he placed an ad in the Switch List segment of the old Railroad magazine in 1961. The first person to answer his ad was Earl Barlow. After returning to Champaign, I searched through my old files and could find nothing from the year 1961. However, I went a little farther in my search and found the ad that Howard Sanford referred to in the April 1962 issue of Railroad. Howard may still be right as during this period, Railroad was issued every 2 months, and with the mailings usually way in advance, it could well be that this issue hit the newsstands in December 1961. It should be noted that the same Railroad magazine issue, April 1962 had ads from John Illman, Arnold Joseph, Emory Kemler, Ed Metz, and Otis Flinchbaugh, among others.

The first publication of the fledgling organization was called the Timetable Newsletter. The first issue, No 1, was dated April 1962. There was no date set for the next publication and the first editor was Earl W. Barlow of Prince George, B.C. The goals of the newsletter were:

1. To discuss in general and in particular all aspects of collecting of employee operating timetables.
2. To publish information calculated to assist all members in collecting such items.  
Examples:
  - A. To list railroads that do not issue operating timetables. (This idea thanks to R.F. Stair of Champaign, IL)
  - B. To list small obscure railroads that do issue operating timetables and which are not generally known or to be found in the usual sources.
  - C. To feature descriptions of railroads from the timetable viewpoint. (Don Dietrich of Seattle gave us this one)
  - D. To advise of changes in timetable format, renumbering, mergers of divisions, etc. (Another good one from R. P. Stair)
  - F. To have the members from time to time offer descriptions and to nominate their favorite timetable- perhaps to select the "Timetable of the month."
  - G. To just plain talk about employee timetables.

Howard Sanford also would run an exchange department for lists and timetables for trade or sale. News items in the first issue were a listing of all CN area names. A query was made for the current timetables of National Railways of Mexico (Editors note: still a valid question in 1998), and the accurate list of the timetables needed to make a complete set of Southern Railway. Also the Cherry Tree and Dixonville issued their No 2 of 26 Nov. 1961.

No. 2 dated May 1962 contained general timetable news. The new divisional reorganization of the MP was discussed. The 15 operating divisions of the road (which included the Texas Pacific) would be consolidated into five districts: Northern District, Central District, Southern District, Gulf District, and Texas District. On Sept. 1, 1961, the ATSF consolidated their Panhandle Div. into the

Plains Div. and divided the New Mexico Div. between the Colorado Div. and the Pecos Div. The confusing part of this change was that the Pecos Div. was renamed the New Mexico Div. A cost for membership had not been formulated yet. Editor Barlow opined that it should be \$1.00 or \$2.00 per year.

- No. 3 dated June-July 1962 Tom Smart of Louisville, KY to handle the trading list. The first roster of the timetable club had 20 members: Art Peterson, Earl Ferree, Dick Stair, Curt Weibe, Don Deitrich, Tom Smart, David Read, John Wood, John Illman, Don Reser, John Cooshek, Jim Lattimer, Bob Brown, Paul Hicks, Cark Ehrke, Earl Barlow, Howard Sanford, Louis Goodwin, Vaughn Sanders, and Dick Cooper.
- No. 4 dated Aug. Sept. 1962 had ideas on an organization. \$2.00 was to be sent to Howard Sanford to cover the cost of the list distribution dept. Tom Smart took over the distribution of lists. A goal of 25 paid up members was set.
- No. 5 dated Oct. Nov. Dec. 1962 had a story on Louis Goodwin. (This turned into the Interesting Timetable Collector series.) At the time Louis had 4000-5000 timetables from 1275 railroads dating back to 1848. It was decided that only paid up members would receive the Time Table Newsletter and the list service effective Jan. 1, 1963. All paid up members as of Jan. 1, 1963 would receive a ballot to elect officers. The subject of public timetables could be mentioned in the Time Table Newsletter. As of this issue, the budding organization had 15 members who had sent in \$2.00. The first appeal for material submission for the newsletter was made. (Editors note: certainly not the last one.)
- No. 6 dated Jan. 1963 contained a list of Joint employee timetables. (Editors note: of the 15 joint employees timetables listed, none of them are issued in 1998.) Letters from Barlow, Jim Latimer, Bill Applegate, Art Peterson, & Louis Goodwin. The DWP went to a booklet timetable. The oldest employee timetable submitted was a New Haven & New London one dated July 1, 1852.
- No. 7 Feb. March 1963 had a story on Dick Cooper. Tom Smart was circulation manager. Louis Goodwin agreed to act as Publicity Director of our yet unnamed group. Interesting Timetable Collector No. 2 was Dick Cooper, a Delaware & Hudson engineer who had a collection of 1300 employees timetables from 110 railroads.
- No. 8 April-August 1963 Editor Barlow notes that "After all, timetables are issued for both the public and for employees and it seems in order that both should be included in our coverage." Articles by Louis Goodwin, Story on Louis Hennick as the Interesting Timetable Collector. Officers: Howard Sanford - OUR FOUNDER, Don Dietrich of Seattle circulation manager of list, Earl Barlow editor, and Louis Goodwin, publicity director. . Membership list published consisting of 29 dues paying members. Bill Applegate, Less Barlow, Bob Brown, R.M. Clark, Marvin Clemons, W.L. Colburn, Dick Cooper, Don Deitrich, Steven Donaldson, Cark Ehrke, Earl Feerree, Pual Ggarbarino, Louis Goodwin, Louis Hennick, John Illman, Ed Kraft, Jim Latimer, Alan Magary, Ed Metz, William Mitchell, Arthur Peterson, Walter Robins, Vaughn Sandaers, Howard Sanford, Tom Smart, Dick Stair, Doin

Steffee, John Wood, and Charles Bohi.

- No. 9 Jan. 1964 issue had note from Don Sarno. Story of Ed Barlow's October 1963 trip. New members: Don Sarno, Gene Goodwin, Donald Robinson, Walter McGaughey, Ted Thompson, Emory Kemler, Peter Skinner, Jake Anderson, and Davis Schumaker.
- No. 10 May 1964 issue had a review of Canadian employee timetables. Don Dietrich to resign as circulation manager. New members were Robert Kerker and Don Davis.
- No. 11 Sept. 1964 Letters published from Paul Schuett and Don Steffee. The Spokane International ceased to issue their own timetables on April 26, 1964.
- No. 12 Oct. 1964 Whole issue is the roster of 42 members.
- No. 13 Jan. 1965 publication of the National Association of Timetable Collectors. First time the NAOTC mentioned. Short line survey. Dues for 1965 set at \$2.00 Postage for the two sheet publication was \$.05. W. R. Brumbaugh was the new member.
- No. 14 March 1965 The Timetable Newsletter first listed on its masthead as a publication of the National Association of Timetable Collectors. Bill Wagner, John Cooshek, and Les Carmichael are the new members.
- No. 15 July 1965 Continuation of the short line timetable survey by Bob Brown. Marvin Clemons is the membership chairman. Special report done of the new Norfolk and Western merger.
- No. 16 Sept. 1965 Membership chairman Marvin Clemons did a membership survey of the NAOTC. Average age of members: 38 years, membership strongest in Iowa, Mass, New York, and California with it being concentrated in the mid-west. Many members referred to the NAOTC by Railroad magazine. Others joined by membership referrals, with Sanford, Brown, Wozniczka, and Barlow referring the most. Collecting interest: 100% collected employees timetables, 70% collected public timetables, 37% collected rule books and 33% collected passes. The members wanted a convention and felt that the National Association of Train Order Collectors and the NAOTC would be able to sponsor a joint convention. (Editors note: I do not believe the now IAOTOC, International Association of Train Order Collectors, have ever had a convention.) Almost all members wanted a monthly publication, but the then current editor Barlow stated "Good idea, but less than 1% ever send any news in..." 100 copies on No 16 printed.
- No. 17 November 1965 General timetable news and the first humorous article. New members Seth Bransom and Ralph Cooper. The following long standing employee timetable issues bit the dust in this issue. The Algoma Central & Hudson Bay Railway changed its name to the Algoma Central. The last AC&HB was 105 of May 30 1965. The Alabama, Tennessee & Northern R.R. was incorporated into the SLSF Southeast District No. 45 of Aug. 9, 1964. The Pacific Electric Ry. was incorporated into the Southern Pacific's Los Angeles Div. timetable No. 228 of Aug.

13, 1965.

- No. 18 Jan. 1966 New letter head. The NAOTC had 52 members at the end of 1965. New member Ed Gardner of Wilkes Barre, PA designed the masthead. 1966 dues \$2.00. Goal of a 75% membership increase for 1966.
- No. 19 Feb. 1966 Ed Garner started a supplemental article in each issue on collecting railroad timetables.
- No. 20 March 1966 General news items. Gardner's supplemental lists suggested prices for timetables. (Editors note: unfortunately, a copy of this did not survive, even in Ed Gardner's archives.)
- No. 21 May 1966 Short line survey and a the CN&W divisional set up. Also reporting on a major Rock Island divisional restructuring. Part 3 of Gardner's article.
- No. 22 June July Aug. 1966 Notes on first election of election of officers. President, vice presidents candidates would appear in the Oct. newsletter. Arthur Dubin was a new member. Part 4 of Gardner's article.
- No. 23 Sept. Oct. 1966 General news. Gardner's supplement on railroad heralds. The Oct. 30, 1966 issue of Rock Island employees timetables reflect the new divisional reorganization. Gardner's article discontinued and would be sent as a whole article to each member. This came out as Collecting Railroad Timetables by Ed Gardner. It was 62 pages long and liberally illustrated with items from Ed Gardner's collection.
- No. 24 Nov. 1966 General news items. The new New York Central format, similar to the Pennsylvania format was noted. (Editors note: shades of Penn Central!!)
- No. 25 Jan. 1967 membership reached 158. Last legal size issue. 1967 dues \$2.00. Vaughan Sanders of Bellflower, CA a new member. Admonishment that ZIP CODES are required. Editorial comment on some timetable high prices. (Editors note: \$3.00 was the high price being discusse!, times have changed.).
- No. 26 Feb. 1967 New size 8 ½ by 11. Suggestions for 1967 regional conventions. Bill Heiss of Springfield, MO and Joel Boucher of Council Bluffs, IA were new members.
- No. 27 March 1967. Honorary member established for each year. 1967 member is Charles Fisher, President of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. One page supplement on developing a trading stock of employee timetables done by Earl Barlow.
- No. 28 April May 1967 article of reproductions of timetables. The Canadian Pacific is going to a magazine size employee timetable. It was the last major railroad to issue a traditional larger size employee timetable.
- No. 29 June July 1967 General news items, among which the Great Northern's Klamath

- Div. is abolished and now part of the Cascade Div. And the Kalispell Div. abolished and is part of the new Montana Div. 200 copies of the newsletter printed.
- No. 30 Aug Sept 1967 back to legal size, general news. The CB&Q issued two regional issue plus special instructions. The Lake Superior Div. of the NP was merged into the St. Paul Div. Kent Hannah a new member (Editors note: Tell me I'm not the only one who didn't remember when they joined. )
- No. 31 Oct. 1967 back to 8 ½ by 11. Art Durban article on "My Favorite Timetable" which was a Nov. 19, 1879 Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad public which has a color cut away view of a reclining chair car. Alan Follett of Chicago, IL was new member.
- No. 32 Nov. Dec. 1967 General news items. The Canadian Pacific set of Oct. 29, 1967 was system wide a magazine set. The Quebec Central timetable was included in the CP's Laurentian and Farnham Div. The CP Montreal Terminal timetable was discontinued with this issue. The 1968 dues were \$3.00
- No. 33 Jan. 1968. New editor of the Timetable Newsletter, Ed Gardner. Earl Barlow became associate editor. Dean Ogle and Jim Prokes were new members. Page count rises to 10 pages and 3 pages attachments which included a survey of those wanting to attend the first national convention in Chicago, IL in Aug. 1968.
- No. 34 Feb. 1968 general news. A reproduction of a Dec. 6, 1926 Kansas City, Mexico & Orient from the Louis Goodwin collection was enclosed.
- No. 35 March 1968 general news, note from Bill Wager that the annual convention will be in Chicago for 1968. New member : Fred Arone. A special 12 page Great Northern timetable pictorial was enclosed with this issue. 8 pages
- No. 36 April 1968 Note of L&N timetables by Mahlon Eberhart 9 pages.
- No. 37 May 1968 Article on CB&Q divisional set up by Robert Brown. Also an article on New Haven public forms and employee timetables by Donald O'Hanley. Convention registration forms sent along. Convention registration was \$5.00. Tables were free. (!!!) 6 pages.
- No. 38 June 1968 Notes on N&W timetable changes of the Muncie and Decatur Div. and Southern and Northern Pacific divisions. 4 pages. Alan Follett & Jim Prokes were the local volunteer members to help on the August convention.
- No. 39 July 1968 general news, information on Chicago convention. 12 pages, mainly ads for trading. Earl Barlow reported on the Burlington Northern issue of May 10, 1968 which was recalled account merger postponed. Also the renaming of the Southern Railway's division in 1968 was discussed.
- No. 40 August 1968 general news 12 pages. Also published was a 28 page section which covered a 1929 TAT airline timetable and the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway.
- No. 41 Sept. 1968 Letter by Louis Goodwin about first convention in Chicago. He arrived

