

# STACK TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON AREA LIVE STEAMERS

VOL 4 NUMBER 11

November, 1995

Editor: Jim Jackson (713)466-8356

President: Tom Herbert (713)578-8688

## Golden Spike Driven At Zube Park!

It was a perfect day! Cool clear weather, a beautiful park setting, lots of trains rolling, and an enthusiastic crowd combined to create one of those special times that will be remembered by its participants for a long, long time. Four years of hopes and hard work were celebrated as President Tom Herbert drove in the Golden Spike on the phase one loop at our Zube Park Facility. (Photo 1) Shortly after the spike was driven home, Jim Jackson's Mogul and Nathan Neuse's American gently touched pilots to commemorate the occasion in grand style. (Photo 2)

In his address, President Herbert Apty pointed out that many individuals made this day possible, beginning with extensive support from Walt Peckham and his crew at the Parks Department of Harris County Precinct 3. Without their help, the dream would still be on paper.



Photo 1: by Dorothy Sumner

Photo 2: by David Hannah, III

The local model railroading fraternity also rendered lots of backing, inviting us to participate in displays and exhibits that not only revealed our existence to local train enthusiasts, but also helped us raise construction funds. Division 8 of the NMRA Lone Star region even furnished drinks and snacks during this day of celebration. This brotherhood transcends scale or gauge. It's a very unique bond that draws us together.

Finally, the members of HALS need to congratulate themselves. In spite of aching muscles, weak backs, and even shooting ourselves in the foot a time or two, we finally got to the end of track. Well done, boys! Well done!

It has been an unbelievable journey, and as the rails beneath my locomotive held fast and secure, I could not help but smile. The old adage still holds true. Getting there really is half the fun.





## November Meeting Report

Sixteen members and one guest were in attendance. A Treasurers report by **Pete Bryan** reflected a cash balance of \$950.00, with all known bills paid. Pete also advised that he has asked for a \$500.00 fee from GATS for participating in the Jan 6-7 show. He also advised that NMRA Lone Star region Div. 8 was planning to serve drinks and snacks at our Golden Spike Ceremony. They expect to have 150-200 members coming by to share in the day's activities.

We have been included in the November layout tour sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad club. We are scheduled for November 11th, from Noon to 4:00pm.

**Claude Wiseman** reported on the status at Zube Park. The south ramp lead needs about 60 ft. of track installed. All switch throws need to be installed. The steaming bays need welding and setting in place. Concrete blocks might be necessary if we can't get them concreted in. He has sent out invitations to county dignitaries and the news media, including both TV and newspapers.

**Jim Jackson** nominated **David Hannah's** tractor, **BIG BERTHA**, for an honorary lifetime membership in **HALS**. Motion passed. Membership is subject to termination if she ever gets traded in. Jim also moved to purchase **Mark Bing** a new battery for his Mac Electric used by **HALS** during shows. Motion passed unanimously.

**Barry Tobias** asked if it would be possible to run a steamer during shows using compressed air. A compressor would have to be located outside due to its noise level. Pete Bryan will explore this aspect with GATS and San Jac.

A discussion about another Christmas party ensued. Jim Jackson will check on availability of the Railroad Crossing restaurant, and preferably, without the guitar picker.

Pres. **Tom Herbert** announced that **Stu Marion** was in charge of getting a nominating committee together. A slate and elections are due at the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned to the parking lot to view David Hannah's Mikado which had been brought to town for some repair work.

## Nominating Committee Slate Set

The nominating committee, consisting of **Stu Marion**, **Cody Crawford**, and **Walt Sumner**, recommends the following slate of officers for 1996. By-laws permit other nominations from the floor during the November meeting, with the elections held immediately thereafter.

President:	Tom Herbert
Administrative VP:	David Hannah, III
Operations VP:	Claude Wiseman
Secretary:	Tom Moore
Treasurer:	Pete Bryan
Junior Director:	Walt Sumner
Senior Director:	Barry Tobias

The committee certifies that to the best of their knowledge, none of these individuals are currently wanted by the law, at least not in Texas.

### CALENDAR OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Dec 1st:** 7:00pm. **HALS** Christmas Party, RR Crossing Restaurant. See announcement below for details.

**Dec 9th:** Live Steam Invitational meet at the Browning Railroad, Chappell Hill, TX See David Hannah for details.

**Jan 6-7, 1996:** GATS G. Brown Convention Center

## Christmas Party Set For Dec 1st

The Railroad Crossing Restaurant, which is located at Gessner and Old Hempstead Rd. has been reserved from 7:00 to 9:30pm on Friday, December 1st. We will have a private room, and a fixed menu will be served. We have a choice, either BBQ and trimmings at \$9.00 per plate, or a 16 oz. ribeye steak meal for \$12.00. We must decide a week before, and we have to guarantee 30 persons. Set ups can be provided, but it's BYOB. Plan to voice your preference at the November meeting.

## NOVEMBER TIMETABLE

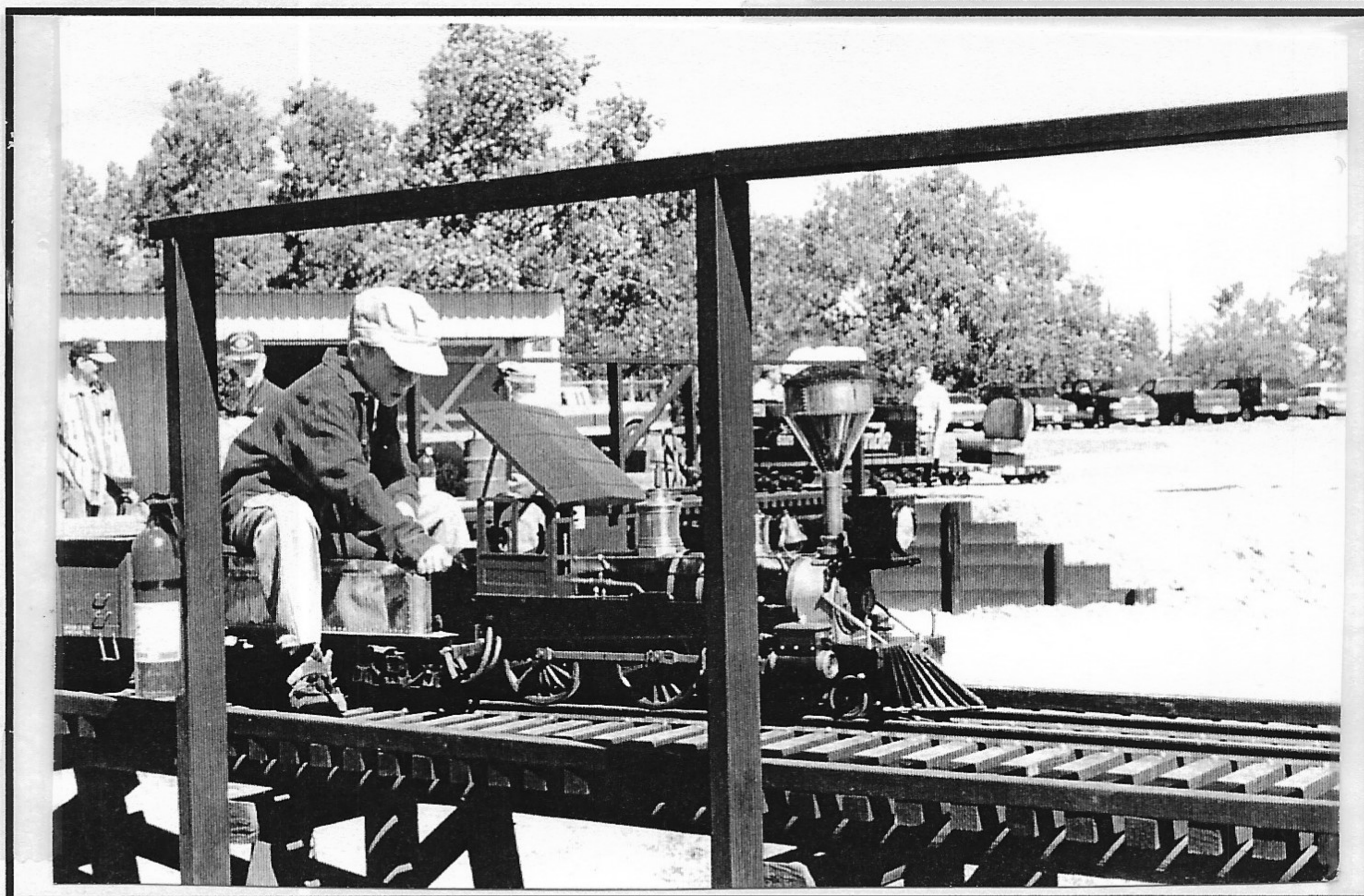
THUR	NOV	2ND:	7:00PM: REGULAR MEETING, BEAR CREEK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER ELECTION OF 1996 OFFICERS.
SAT	NOV	4TH:	10:00AM TO 3:00PM WORK PARTY, ZUBE PARK.
SAT	NOV	11TH:	12:00 NOON TO 4:00PM OPEN HOUSE AT ZUBE PARK FOR SAN JACINTO MODEL RR CLUB LAYOUT TOURS. TRAINS WILL BE RUNNING.
WED	NOV	29TH:	7:00PM TO 8:30PM BOARD MEETING, DIRTY'S RESTAURANT, I 10 NEAR KIRKWOOD

SEE CALENDAR OF COMING ATTRACTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES BEYOND CURRENT MONTH



Opening day of the Cypress Creek & Southern Railroad began much earlier than the mid-day Golden Spike ceremony. Equipment was being offloaded onto steaming bays before 8:00AM. Lee Balkum had the distinction of being the first steamer out on the track, and his 2-8-0 was the motive power for the inaugural run of train 101, *The Zube Zephyr*. Lee's Grandson, Alex Balkum, along with Rumpel Bear, became the Zephyr's first passengers. May there be many more to come!

Photo right by: Wm. Madison



Shortly thereafter, hostler Adam Neuse had Dad's Little Engines 4-4-0 polished and steamed up for main line action. Here, he is easing her off of the turntable onto the outbound ramp. It was indeed a pleasure to see the servicing facilities provide such smooth operation during the loading, unloading and servicing of club members' equipment. Note the fire extinguisher. Service facility project manager, Claude Wiseman covered all the bases.

Photo left by: Dorothy Sumner

John Hannah followed on his Railroad Supply Co. 1.6" scale Mikado. He and dad, David, brought two trains, the mike for pulling a set of heavyweight passenger cars, and an SD35 diesel for freight service.

This, and the previous photo, are reflections of the club's strong desire to make this hobby a family venture. Without the young, there would be no tomorrow for live steam, and without some patient and supportive wives during the construction of this railroad, there would not have been a today.

Photo right by: Dorothy Sumner

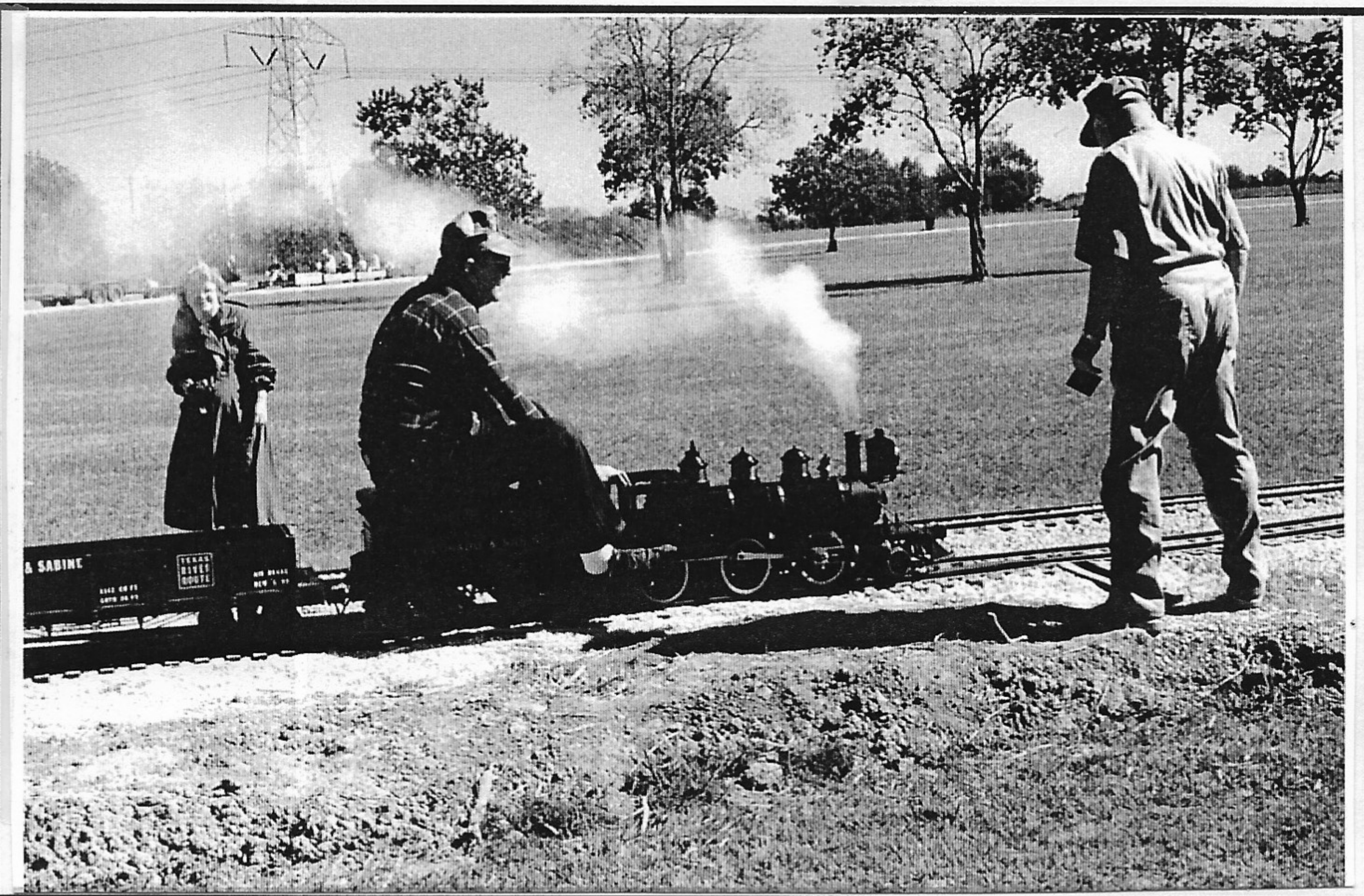




John Enders, of Austin, Texas brings his scratchbuilt 2 1/2" scale 2-8-2 down the ramp. This locomotive, patterned after a White Pass & Yukon narrow gauge engine, is a true work of art. It is reflective of what can be done using a minimal number of commercial parts, a little spare time, and lots of determination.

The really great thing about this man is that you can directly benefit from his extensive locomotive building experience. All you have to do is just ask.

Photo, right by: Wm. Madison



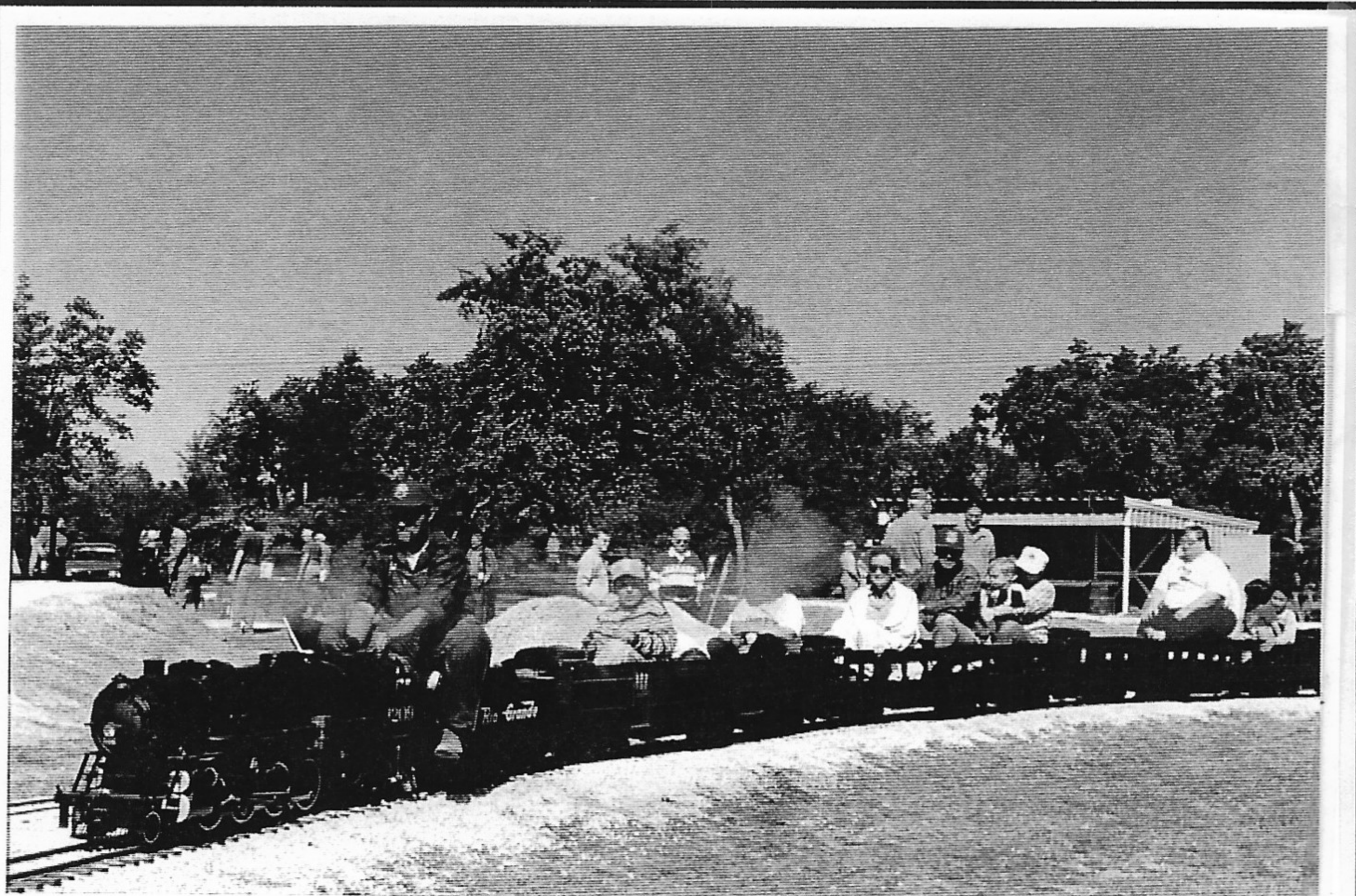
Jim Jackson concludes the parade of Live steam locomotives with his Little Engines 2-6-0. This engine was the only oil fired engine operating on opening day. A valve to the hydrostatic lubricator had been opened to give the valves and cylinders a liberal dose of oil, causing the white plume of smoke. Switchman, Arthur Magill gives the train main line access.

An article for a future issue of *Stack Talk* on the conversion of this engine from nasty coal to nastier oil is in the works .

Photo, left by: Wm. Madison

Dwight Rogers is at the throttle of the Hannah's 2-8-2, pulling another section of the Zube Zephyr. An estimated crowd of over two hundred came to share in this gala occasion with us. Because of the persistent efforts of many HALS members like Dwight, the track was in much better condition for this first run than was expected. There were only three minor derailments, none of which were attributed to track conditions. It was like Barry Tobias once pointed out. Our track is not nearly as crooked as it appears.

Photo, right by: Dorothy Sumner





The undisputed tonnage champ for the day was John Enders' Mikado. When the Rio Grande Mike no. 1209 left the track for throttle repairs, John's train wound up with both the four car passenger set as well as the gondola laden freight train. This eight car train operated during the peak traffic hours, moving lots of "pig iron" around the railroad. The lack of any serious grades in our phase one loop allow heavier and longer trains such as this to be moved without much difficulty.

Photo, right by: Dorothy Sumner



Nathan Neuse's American further proved up the quality of the track work. Not only was the track capable of handling the big brutes, it was also sensitive enough to accommodate several light weight locomotives and cars. The spring loaded switches never once failed to throw over for the several wood cars that passed though them throughout the day. Here, Nathan's engine has its brass gleaming in the bright sunlight as he waits for clearance to enter the station area. Wife, Marilyn, rides shotgun.

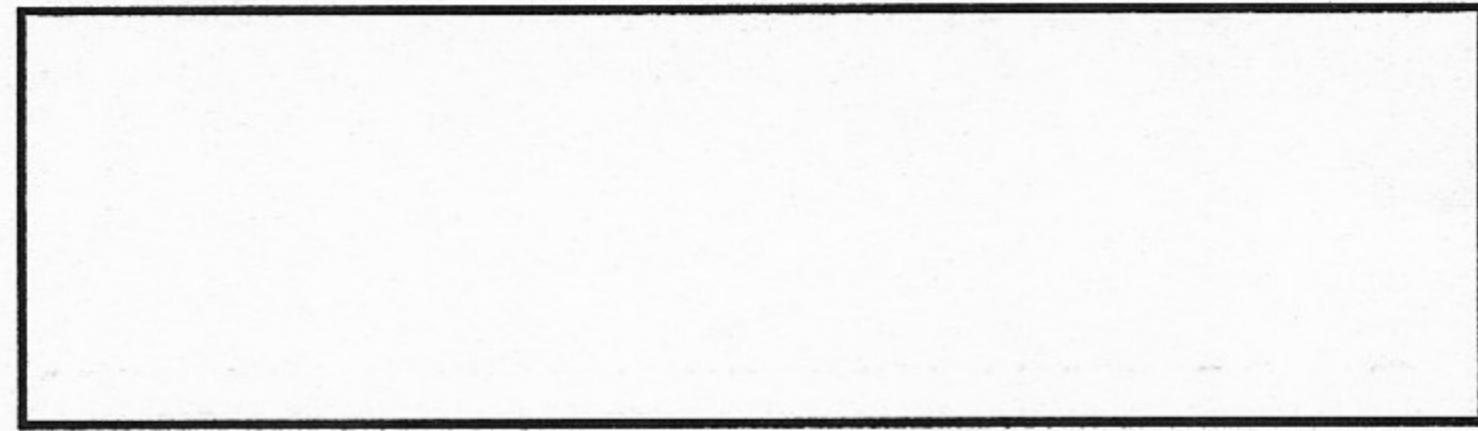
Photo, left by: Wm. Madison

With both Mikados back in operation, a double headed train is made up. As the train eases into the first of several 80 ft. radius curves, the scene reflects the support given to us by the Precinct 3 parks department. Few railroads such as ours have the space to enjoy the luxury of such broad curves. The raised sub roadbed is another blessing provided by our county partners. It eliminated our greatest labor burden and gave us a solid base upon which to build our dream. Finally, the dream has become reality.

Photo, right by: David Hannah, III







JIM JACKSON, EDITOR  
15326 LEEDS LANE  
HOUSTON, TX 77040

November, 1995

STACK TALK

### MEMBERSHIP MILEPOSTS

The Golden Spike ceremony was covered by the media. The Chronicle had a photographer and reporter on hand, so look for a report in one of the neighborhood sections sometime within the next two weeks. **Ray Miller** also covered the event as part of his quarterly precinct 3 report that is aired over Educational Channel 1 (ch. 15 on Warner cable). Ray advised that a segment on our railroad will appear near the end of his one hour program that is scheduled for airing at the following times: Sunday, Oct 29th, 7:00pm; Monday, Oct 30th, 6:00pm; Friday, Nov 3rd, 7:00pm; Saturday, Nov 4th, 6:00pm.... We missed seeing **C.T. Sumrall** at our event and hope that he is bouncing back from his recent illness... **Nathan Neuse** reports that his foundry is ready for operations. Build a pattern and go see him. He's looking for a lot of cheap labor to help out... We welcome the following new member:

- |  |                  |            |       |                |
|--|------------------|------------|-------|----------------|
| 57. <b>John Enders</b>                                   | 1406 Berkshire   | Austin, TX | 78723 | (512) 451-1480 |
| Roster Revision, new address and residence phone number: |                  |            |       |                |
| 05. <b>Mark Bing, MD</b>                                 | 26226 Morton Rd. | Katy, TX   | 77493 | (713) 391-6998 |

HAPPY RAILS TO YOU!