



THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER

St. Louis Chapter NRHS --- www.stlouisnrhs.org

Volume 43 Number 3 - March 2026

Established October 2, 1963

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*Norfolk Southern 1073, the Penn Central heritage unit, rolls through Maryland Heights,
Missouri on a cold and snowy Tuesday, January 27, 2026*

Photo by Scott Nauert, Collection of Andy Sisk

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 7:00 pm
The National Museum of Transportation
Lindburg Automobile Center, 2nd Floor

President's Message

We have an author coming to the March meeting, details are below, but I encourage you to come see his program, and purchase his book. A good turnout will help other authors to come in the future.

In other book news, Chapter member William Schaberg's book is at the printer and will be released soon, we hope to have copies at the April meeting.

Rick Sprung has been working on setting up some tours. One at St. Louis Union Station in May and the other at The National Building Arts Center in April. He will have more details at the March meeting.

March Chapter Meeting Program Features Author of Book on the Gateway Western Railroad

For the March 2026 St. Louis Chapter NRHS monthly meeting, we will have a special guest presentation by Ryan Crawford on the book he recently wrote - *Gateway Western – A Regional in Transition*. The book documents the troubled and challenging history of an important segment of Midwestern railroading.

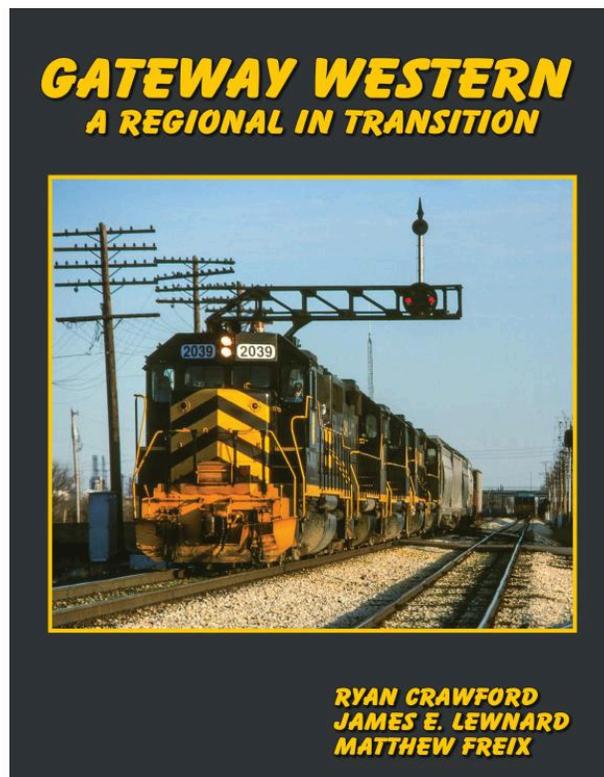
The result of years of research, this book covers the Chicago, St. Louis, and Kansas City lines of the former Illinois Central Gulf (originally Chicago & Alton/Gulf, Mobile & Ohio) as they were spun off in the late 1980s. The first attempt was Chicago, Missouri & Western, that quickly ran into financial difficulty. With these important rail transportation hubs and Amtrak service between Chicago and St. Louis in jeopardy, a

combination of events brought Santa Fe and others to the table and Gateway Western was created.

Authors Ryan Crawford, James E. Lewnard, and Matthew Freix share the history of both regionals (Chicago, Missouri & Western and Gateway Western) in this new book containing more than 200 pages. A wealth of color photos take the reader across the system, show the equipment, and tell the story of this interesting chapter in Midwest railroading. The book includes coverage of Amtrak, Kansas City Southern, Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, and other roads that were associated with this regional operation.

He will be selling and signing books at the meeting. The book is also available to purchase online - <https://shop.whiteriverproductions.com/products/gwwr>

Chapter members and guests are welcome to come attend the presentation, immediately following a short business meeting.



Last Call for Chapter Membership Renewal

The general membership renewal period ends March 31. If you have not renewed your membership in St. Louis Chapter NRHS, this is your last issue of the Gateway Railletter, as we will purge our mailing list in early April. Please renew your Chapter membership.

If you are not sure of your Chapter renewal status, please contact Eileen Weber, our VP Membership, at membership@stlouisnrhs.com for verification.

Wabash Passenger Photos

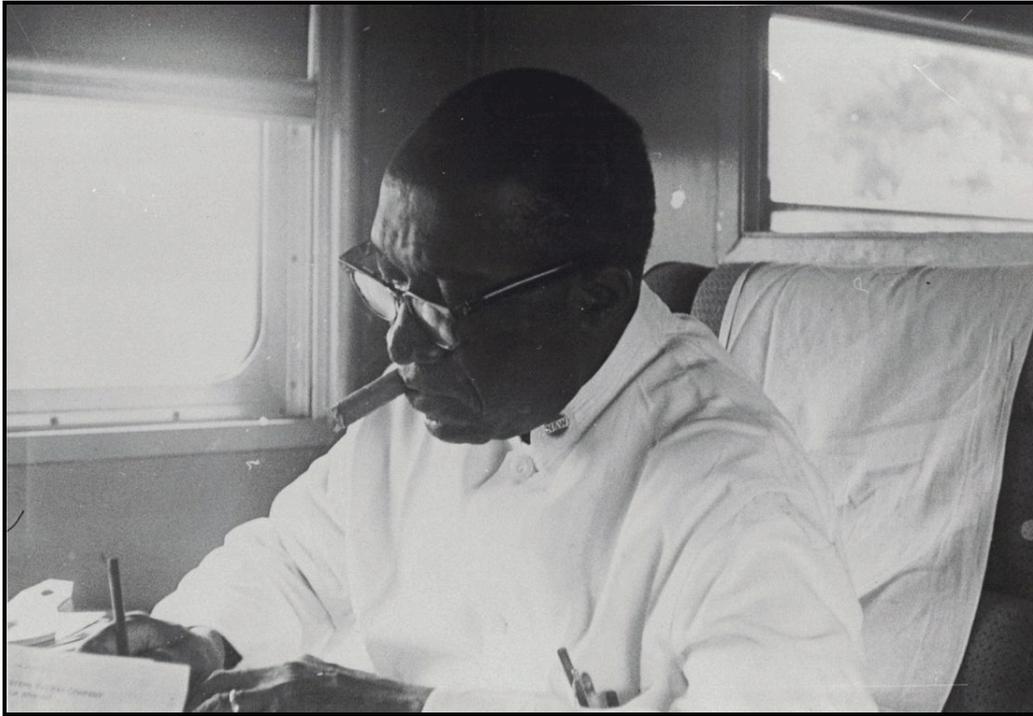
Photos from the David Huelsing Collection, Photographer(s) Unknown

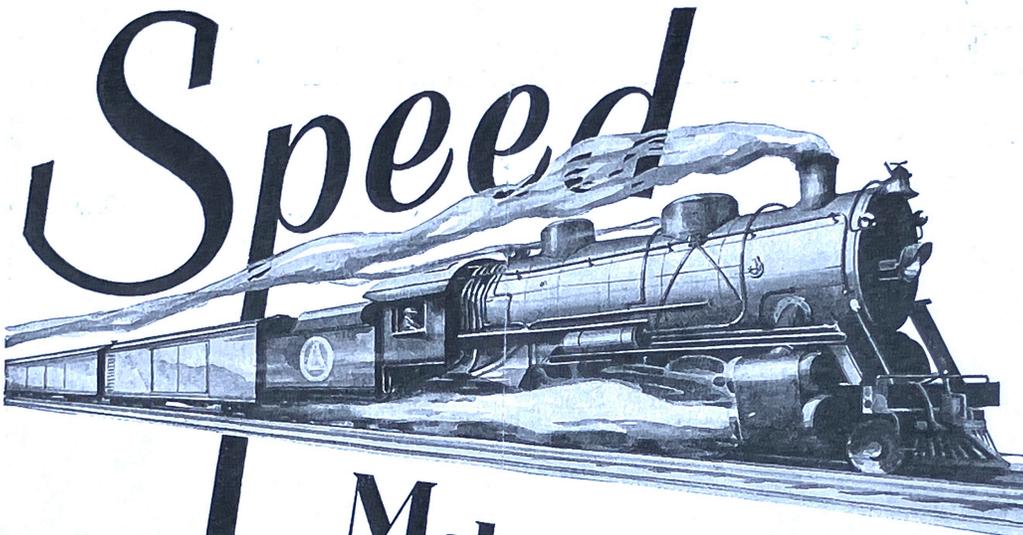
This month we have a collection of Wabash passenger and crew photos from their passenger trains. Enjoy!











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Chicago & Alton Railroad freight service advertisement from March of 1931

Courtesy of James Gillespie

St. Louis Area History Showcase

The St. Louis Chapter NRHS will have a table at the HISTORY SHOWCASE at Jefferson Barracks Park on Saturday, June 6 (details below).

If you would like to help, contact David Huelsing - dhuelsing@stlouisnrhs.org

VP Trip Director – Rick Sprung: Looking at a couple of local events. He is looking at Union Station trips

VP Membership – Eileen Weber: We are still collecting membership dues. She is sending out emails to people who have not renewed. She is contacting non payees. She is sending out welcome emails to new members. She has a new email address for the membership position which is membership@stlouisnrhs.org

Treasurer – Steve Siegerist: Reported on latest financials. Ron Zimmer gave an endowment fund report.

Secretary – Bill Heger: No Report

National Advisory Committee Representative – Cliff Kierstead: No report.

Gateway Railletter Editor – Rick Sprung: He needs content - photos and articles.

Internet Media Administrator – Steve Binning: Not present. Al Weber demonstrated updates to the chapter website.

Librarian – Taylor Hunt: See the back table for current library offerings.

Parliamentarian Ron Zimmer: No report

President-David Huelsing: Not present. Report given by Rick Sprung

Old Business: None

New Business: Bill Schaberg Book proposal. The chapter discussed publishing the book. An anonymous donor will provide the funds. Motion made by Tom Binger to spend up to \$4,000 to print Bill Schaberg's book on the MOT. It was seconded by Bruce Herzog. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred Blank made a motion for the chapter to create the Al Weber fund for the National Museum of Transportation. Motion to table was made by Al Weber. Motion tabled.

News Items:

Eileen Weber - She went to the railroad Passenger Car alliance meeting. She brought stuff back.

Andy Sisk - Dupo, Illinois train show February 14 at the American Legion Hall. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There is a new train watching spot at Salt and Smoke across from Kirkwood City hall.

Tom Binger - There is now an N scale model of Union Station at the Iron Spike Museum.

Fred Blank - There are two models of rehabbed Kirkwood Station in the temp Amtrak station.

The 50/50 drawing was held.

Motion to adjourn was made by Eileen Weber. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Submitted by: Bill Heger
Secretary, St. Louis Chapter,
National Railway Historical Society

We Are (Still) Looking For An Editor

Want to be an editor of a periodical publication? Always wanted to put a newsletter together? Here's your chance...

The Chapter's *Gateway Railletter* Editor position is currently vacant. The job requires a few hours a month of putting articles, news and photos into the MailChimp format.

Without an editor the Gateway Railletter does not get published. We can't depend on temporary editors forever.

If you are interested in becoming the editor, please contact David Huelsing or any chapter officer. Until we find a new editor David and Rick Sprung will be filling the position. If you have anything that you would like to submit please e-mail it to newsletter.exchange@stlouisnrhs.org. Photos must have captions or an overall description included. Image and text file requirements can be found below.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO **THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER**, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CONTENT IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE. **THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER** IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY ON OR BEFORE THE 25TH OF THE MONTH. SEND YOUR ARTICLE OR PHOTOS TO

NEWSLETTER.EXCHANGE@STLOUISNRHS.ORG.

PHOTOS MUST HAVE A CAPTION OR GENERAL DESCRIPTION. IMAGE FILES SHOULD BE jpg, gif, png, bmp or tif FORMAT. DOCUMENT FILES CAN BE doc, docx, or pdf.

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