

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

