

NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE

Accurate Information For Fine Modelbuilding

November, 1976
\$1.50



NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE

VOL. 2, No. 5

November 1976

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The **NARROW GAUGE** and **SHORT LINE GAZETTE** is published bimonthly in March, May, July, September, November, and January by Gazette Publications, P.O. Box 1046, Felton, CA 95018.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

United States & Canadian Rates:

\$8.00 per year 2nd Class Mail

\$17.50 per year 1st Class Mail

Overseas Rates:

\$10.50 per year Surface

\$18.00 per year Air, Europe

\$21.00 per year Air, Pacific
(U.S. funds please)

Back Issues:

Vol. 1, #4 (Sept.) \$1.25

Vol. 1, #6 (Jan) \$1.25

Vol. 2, #1 (Mar.) \$1.25

Vol. 2, #3 (Jul.) \$1.25

Vol. 2, #4 (Sept.) \$1.25

All correspondence relating to subscriptions, advertising (Commercial and Riptrack), and back issues of the **Gazette** should be sent to the General Manager, Gazette Publications, P.O. Box 1046, Felton, CA 95018.

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Any correspondence relating to editorial subjects, i.e. contributions or commentary, should be directed to the editor:

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Second class postage paid at Felton, CA 95018 and at additional entry offices.

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COVER

Drifting southbound into Keeler, California, S.P.'s ten-wheeler #9 is portrayed just after noon in January, 1953. Happily #9 can still call the Owens Valley her home since she has been placed on display at the Laws museum.

C.H. Givens Photo

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

I feel the need for a "State of the Union Message" or "Fire Side Chat" for several reasons. The first is that we have heard rumors and had a few phone calls expressing concern about the future of THE GAZETTE. It seems that some people feel we are not going to "make" it. This may be because of our erratic issuance of the magazine. I am not sure what is prompting the concern. Our number one priority is getting the magazine out on time which means the end of the month of publication as far as you are concerned. We have moved our deadlines so that we should be able to get it in the mail in time to meet our deadline to you. We are also still working out the "glitches" which occur from time to time. Let me just say that I can assure you that the magazine is viable and will be with you for a long time to come.

My second concern is over the fact that we will have to raise the price of THE GAZETTE with this issue. I was always very open with the readers of FINELINES and I want to do the same in THE GAZETTE. The last several issues have made a profit. Any business enterprise takes time to get on its feet and THE GAZETTE is no exception. Most of our profits are going to retire initial developmental debts. These debts are now being retired in an orderly manner and will take care of themselves. However, if we are to have developmental capital to improve both the magazine and our service to you we need a price increase. We are just too close to the belt for comfort right now. I know most of you will go along with

us. We are now the fifth largest model railroad magazine in circulation. This was achieved in less than two years. We are ready to move into a bigger and better magazine. With your help THE GAZETTE will grow.

We still need material. However, we are now in the position of having backup material in case an article does not get to us in time. In the past if we built an issue around a given item and if it was late the magazine was late. Don't let that last statement keep you from sending in material because we are just not that flush with articles, photos, etc. While I am rambling on I also want to say that I need to get a system developed which will let you know the status of the material you submit. I do not always respond right away when material is sent in. I apologize for this.

I also have the sad duty to announce that Jerry Hoffer will no longer be associated with THE GAZETTE. For personal reasons Jerry felt that he could no longer remain in our partnership. We wish Jerry and his family every success in their new life with Sundance in Silverton, Colorado.

From now on all correspondence relating to the editorial policy of the magazine as well as all review items, plans, photos, and articles should be sent directly to me at 985 Campbell Ave., Los Altos, CA., 95022.

Bob Brown

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