

# Talk Among Friends



January-February-March 2019

Norfolk and Western Historical Society

## Happy New Year

Welcome to 2019! As you are reading this, it will be solidly two months into the new year. New year means new beginnings, looking back at the past, but we also need to look forward as well. 2018 brought the Society several new things, a new editor for the Arrow, another fine convention,

## Calendars and New Items

It is the time of year that one of the common questions we get is about calendars for the upcoming year. This year, we have to tell people there will be no N&W or Virginian calendar available through the Society for 2019.

The Society last published a calendar in 2016. Calendar sales had been in decline for several years, and after a few years of making little or no profit, it was decided the effort and cost to produce a calendar was excessive. Our friend Aubrey Wiley who had done the well-known Virginian calendar for over 10 years, added a N&W calendar to his offerings. However, even our sales of Aubrey's calendar had declined, and we still have a supply of many previous years calendars in stock. Last spring, Aubrey announced that he was retiring from the publishing business, and was not doing any further books or calendars.

While I am certain some of you have missed the calendars, we will consider doing them again, but we have to be assured that they will be a success, and not leave us with a stock of calendars unsold at the end of the year. Getting the calendar produced and printed is not cheap, and if members will not support the sales of such a calendar or any product for that matter, we cannot simply afford to do them.

So, the question to our members is what kind of products do you want to see and you will buy from us? That is the key, we need to sell product, we do not have a benefactor who is financing the operation of the Society, we have on going expenses, the archive building, internet, website, phones, magazine etc. etc. These all cost money and we need our members support to keep it all going.

While we cannot offer custom models such as locomotives, as the investment in the tooling for such a model is beyond our means, we are working with manufacturers to offer some N&W specific models or custom numbers of

this time in Spencer, NC, many more items cataloged and new material donated to the Archives. However, there is one common element to all those items, that is the people. We could not do what we do without our fine volunteers. However, our volunteer ranks are thin, we need new folks involved, help with all of the above is needed. Can you volunteer some time?

others. But again, we need your support, order directly early.

One of the new items that is now available in our Commissary are art prints of classic N&W photos suitable for framing. We are offering four different prints this quarter. These are high quality classic black and white photographic images, some well known, some not so familiar. These make great gifts or fantastic decorations for your hobby room.

As has been seen industry wide, book sales have slowed, press runs have decreased, but we are still in the publishing business and looking for books that fit our publication plans. We are also looking at some smaller publications on subjects that might not be broad appeal, these could be considered like an expanded magazine but highly focused on a single subject, we have some ideas of subject matter and are looking for folks who'd like to pull together the information. It may not require much writing, but finding drawings or photos from the Archives or elsewhere to make a good reference book.

One thing we would like to expand is coverage of Norfolk Southern on the former N&W, photos, article, railfan stories, models, etc. This would be only offered as an electronic publication, but some material may well be suited for the Arrow as well. We are mindful of the Arrow's place as a history magazine but remember that history is happening all around us.

Doing this publication as an electronic magazine will allow us to do one other thing and that is to accept advertising, which can go a long way to keeping us on a good financial footing.

So, what are your ideas, suggestions, thoughts? Please email me directly at [miller@nwhs.org](mailto:miller@nwhs.org). We are truly interested in what members have to say.

—Ken Miller

## Call For Nominations For N&WHS Board of Directors

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Each year, the terms of three of the nine Directors of the Society expire and the seats come up for election to a three-year term of office. This year the seats held by Larry Hill, David Rice and Joe Shaw are up for election. As per the By-Laws, Larry and Joe are not eligible to run for another term as a Director, as they have reached their term limit.

All members of the Society are eligible to run for a seat on the Board of Directors and the Society encourages all members who are interested in running and serving the Society. To this end, we are seeking nominations of members to be candidates in the up-coming elections.

Nominations can be made through March 10, 2019. All nominations should be sent to Secretary Ken Miller at [miller@nwhs.org](mailto:miller@nwhs.org) and Tisha Boggs at [boggs@nwhs.org](mailto:boggs@nwhs.org). Nominations of another individual should be approved by that person prior to submission. The candidates and ballots as well as convention information will be mailed by mid March with ballots needing to be returned by May 1, 2019 with the new directors announced at the general membership meeting at the 2019 Convention.



## Description of the Duties of a Director

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Collectively, the Board of Directors assumes fiduciary, legal and philosophical responsibility for all N&W Historical Society activities. The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing society policy, approving the annual budget and determining the goals of the Society in accordance with its mission statement.

A Director should have a strong interest in the society's purpose and goals and in serving the membership. In addition, a members experience in or knowledge of administration, finance, program development, marketing, media communications, railroad and regional history, railroad modeling are useful strengths that can be directly applied to the administration of the Society and its projects and plans. Also, a Director participates in implementing the Society's Mission Statement: The Society exists to serve the interests of its Members and the public at large in the Norfolk and Western and Virginian railways. To that end, it shall, among other activities, acquire, preserve, archive, and make available to the public, historians, museums, and other railroad historical groups, the historical documents, including drawings, photographs, and other graphics, of the two railroads.

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## 2019 Convention - Save the Date, Back Home To Roanoke!

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Coming to your mailbox in mid-late February will be the full convention flyer and *Talk Among Friends*.

Our 2019 Annual Convention will be in Roanoke. While you all might think that Roanoke is just the same old place, Roanoke is in a constant state of change.

Make your plans for May 2-4, 2019 to visit Roanoke.

Our Convention hotel is the Sheraton Airport, which has a large facility and offered us at a very decent rate of \$99 (plus tax, of course!) per night.

We believe we will have an interesting convention for you in 2019. In our history, Roanoke has not been served with regular passenger service but now Amtrak has a daily train each way.

One big thing that we hope to see is the N&W Big Three in one place, 611, 1218 and 2156! Now, we have no idea about the 611's availability or presence at Roanoke. No firm plans for 2019 have been announced, so we won't know anything until much closer to time. But we can hope we have all three here for you.

Once again, we will have a picnic with great fellowship, meet old friends, make new ones!

If you have been wanting to see our archives and maybe do some research, it will be open and available. If you do have specific research requests, please contact our folks in plenty of time to allow them to arrange for easy access to the items of interest when you arrive.

What would a Convention be without some special sales items? we intend to have a lot of surplus or duplicate materials available at the Archives. We are working on a great banquet speaker and clinic presenters. If you have a suggestion, or knowledge you'd love to share, please contact [shaw@nwhs.org](mailto:shaw@nwhs.org) or [miller@nwhs.org](mailto:miller@nwhs.org), we'd love to hear from you! Just remember to save the date, May 2-5, 2019.

## Capitol Campaign

by Todd Arnett (arnett@nwhs.org)

Yes, this column is a repeat from last quarter, but it is vitally important for our members to participate in the capitol campaign called “Clear Block to the Future.”

Now the Society has sort of let a capitol campaign slide for a number of years, but we have now decided to address the campaign once again. Our members might ask “Why a campaign? Is the Society broke?” The answer is really not simple. Over the last 33 years since the Society was organized we have accomplished a great many things; we have a truly world class archival collection of material with over 150,000 items cataloged and more being added every week. We have an outstanding publication, the *Arrow*. We’ve produced a number of books and assisted in preservation efforts in a variety of ways. We do have money in the bank. The Directors and Officers are working hard to make changes and move the Society forward to meet our mission statement:

*The vision of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society is to be the recognized authoritative source for information about the history of the Norfolk & Western and Virginian and predecessor railroads.*

However, we are nearing a turning point of operations, our Archives building in Roanoke is an older building and we have simply outgrown it, we have a large off-site location that we are using thanks to Norfolk Southern we also have a storage building, and are expecting to add even more material in the near future.

It is pretty easy, our building is just too small, and due to its age, the on-going maintenance continues costing more and more. Our roof has had a variety of leaks over the past few years, which are being addressed as we speak, no material was damaged from the roof, but it is a flat roof building, and flat roofs always become an issue the older they get. Couple that with the additional materials we have or are expecting, means we really need a new home. Not to mention that an older building is always creating a new problem, fix something and something else decides to break or need fixing as well. We have also had some water infiltration via the walls of the building, and there simply is no easy or cheap way of fixing those.

Your first question is probably can we fix the building? The short answer is yes we can. The practical answer is no. The building is not nearly large enough to hold our collections, and we are simply landlocked, there is no room to add on. The parking area beside our existing building is not

## CLEAR BLOCK TO THE FUTURE

*Capital Campaign*

*Norfolk and Western Historical Society*



suitable for construction of an addition, not to mention we lose the parking if we did that.

When our building was purchased, it may have been the best option. If you are a rail fan, and want to look out from the front sidewalk and see motive power at Shaffers Crossing, our location is nice. But if you are an average person, that scenery is not exactly what they want, it is also not in a neighborhood that is growing in value. So, from a financial standpoint, it really does not make sense to put money into a location that is not going to return the investment should we decide to move.

Now, if you think we just want a new place, you are mistaken. We are really open to any options, but the chances are, the present building is not really going to be adaptable to any kind of future growth or value improvement. We would be open to suggestions or other possibilities. We have considered putting a new roof on that is pitched, but the estimates we received is more than we feel that we would be able to yield a return on our investment. The fact is, we are out of space, and the roof is a somewhat secondary factor.

So, what are we looking for? That is not even easy to answer, we need at least two or three times the space we presently have. That is a big order because we presently have about 7,354 square feet of space inside the Salem Avenue location.

Property in downtown Roanoke is pretty expensive, and not a lot of good locations are really available at anything resembling a good price.

So, what options do we have? For all the obvious reasons, we need to remain in the Roanoke area. Our volunteer base is there and it was the headquarters of the N&W for almost 100 years. Roanoke is also the heart of N&W and Virginian preservation anywhere, being close to that would seem to be critical as well.

The Board feels that a place within 20 miles of Roanoke would be our best option, naturally we’d like it to be readily accessible, close to town, a one story building seems more practical as moving things up and down stairs is really not a good choice. It would be nice if it was close enough to an active rail line to allow folks to see some train action, a modern building with modern systems and plenty of space to grow and include more material that comes along as well

as what we already have.

Indeed that is a pretty long list! Not to mention some pretty expensive options.

However, this is a long-term proposal and we need to look to the future. This is not something that will happen in a year, or even two. There are many steps towards this kind of process. A new home requires a lot of research, and a determination of what we need and where we are going.

If we can find a place that meets the requirements, we then need to do the modifications that make it exactly what we want. If we cannot find a suitable place that meets the criteria, we are left with one option, and that is to build a home to meet what we need.

In either case, we have to acquire a place or land, hire an architect and consulting engineers to be sure what you want to do it feasible and legal, create our design, then build the place. All of that takes money, and a lot of it. Can we do it? This organization has pulled off a lot of amazing things over the years, this should be no different.

But we need the support of lots of members and community support as well. Do we expect the membership to come up with enough money to do this by ourselves? While that would be great, we are talking about a huge investment, and while our members are important, and we hope most will pitch in, it certainly is not going to be enough to pull this off. This is where we need help from the community as a whole. Our members need to help us find available grants, or business support. If you have ideas, suggestions, know someone who might be able to help or you are willing to help, email me directly at [arnett@nwhs.org](mailto:arnett@nwhs.org)

One of the first things a large donor wants to know is how much the organization has to put up for this plan. There is no such thing as free money, we need to be able to put up at least 25-50 percent of an overall campaign goal.

Now, how much money are we talking about here? Hard to say, but very easily \$500,000 to \$2,500,000 or more. Now those are some scary numbers for a small group. Obviously, we can get some return on our building, but that is money we cannot get until we are out of the existing building, and we cannot bank on a quick sale. A large building just down the street from our archives has been on the market for well over a year. Indeed it may be overpriced, but it proves there is a weak market in this neighborhood. It is hard to admit, but our options are not good, as far as the collective wisdom of the board sees it.

So, our choice is 1) stay static and hope for the best or 2) be proactive and start looking towards the future. If we stay the same and get the materials that we understand is coming our way, we are back to the drawing board. We have to figure out how to spend more money to safely store it and

not have it readily accessible for cataloging.

You can ask, "well, how about grants?" Great idea, we need someone to find those grants for us and we need a person who can apply for these grants. That process is slow, and usually folks who want to give you grants like to see that an organization is vested in the project, in other words, ready to lay their money on the table as a partial or more matching funds.

Ken Miller tells me that the grant program on the Virginian Station in Roanoke required that the Roanoke Chapter NRHS provide at least 25 percent plus of the matching funds to meet Virginia Department of Transportation grants. The real catch of that was the Chapter had to pay the bills first, then apply for reimbursement which were administered, even if they were federal grants, by Virginia Department of Transportation. All that takes time. Some grants also have time limits and disappear if not used within the proper time frame. So, you will have to have a fair amount of cash on hand to accomplish a project.

So, where does this leave us? We have a vision of where we want to go, and know it takes money to get there, and it is a lot more money than we expect our membership will donate. So, where do we go? Pretty simple, we are running a small dollar campaign right now, we need enough seed money to show major donors that we are really serious about the project. This is where the members come into play. We are asking every member to join the club, if every member would donate at least \$50, we'd start out with \$50,000 or more to our fund, as pointed out, that is a good start, but \$100,000 would be a lot better. So, as an incentive we are offering for a \$50 donation, plus shipping of course, a capitol campaign supporter shirt and window decal. Naturally, if you want to donate more, we'd be thrilled to have it! This will give us a starting point, and something to show our corporate folks that we truly serious about our mission.

We hope to have your support!

## **Support Your Society**

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I'd like to remind all the members that supporting your Society by purchases from the Commissary is vital for our continued ability to keep the operation going. If we do not have income, we cannot keep the doors open and the lights on. Instead of purchasing items from some internet seller, it might cost you a few dollars more, but if you spend your money with the Society, it helps keep our new products coming your way.

While the purchase of Archive materials is important as well, we are mainly speaking of books, DVDs, models etc. The more you purchase, the more variety of things we can

carry, it is that simple.

When the Society offers a model, sales turnaround is very important. The quicker we turn product off our shelf; the quicker we can turn a profit! While we do not make a large profit off models, every little bit helps.

The books we publish ourself is a similar case, again, we have a large investment in the production and printing of any book, and your orders help change that to a positive

## Capitol Campaign Shirts

As you have read elsewhere, we are doing a small dollar campaign (but if you want to give more, we gladly will take it!) to raise funds for the "Clear Block Ahead" campaign. Now, how can you help? First it is easy, order one of the lovely T-Shirts shown here for \$40 plus shipping add another \$10 and we'll include a window decal for your vehicle (even if it is a Pullman car). The shirts are available in yellow, red or white. **Only available here!**

White shirt with black, maroon and yellow logos

- LARGE . . .SKU# 1453.48.WL
- XL . . . . .SKU# 1453.48.WXL
- XXL . . . . .SKU# 1453.48.WXXL
- XXXL . . . .SKU# 1453.48.WXXXL

Yellow shirt with black, maroon and yellow logos

- LARGE . . .SKU# 1453.48.YL
- XL . . . . .SKU# 1453.48.YXL
- XXL . . . . .SKU# 1453.48.YXXL
- XXXL . . . .SKU# 1453.48.YXXXL

Red shirt with black, white and yellow logos

- LARGE . . .SKU# 1453.48.RL
- XL . . . . .SKU# 1453.48.RXL
- XXL . . . . .SKU# 1453.48.RXXL
- XXXL . . . .SKU# 1453.48.RXXXL

# Only \$40 per shirt!

cash flow sooner not later.

So, before you order that book, model, or DVD from somewhere else, make sure you check with the Society to see if we have it, or will have it, just because it is not listed, does not mean we do not have it. So, you can email [info@nwhs.org](mailto:info@nwhs.org) and ask. We appreciate your support and will get back with you promptly.

The Capitol Campaign is vital to our long term goals and every dollar helps, any amount over the \$40 shirt price will be considered as a donation and may be a tax deduction depending on the current IRS tax laws, consult your accountant for specifics.

Add at least \$10 and note it on your order, and we will include a special campaign window sticker to proudly display your support



**Have you ordered your Scale Trains N&W SD40-2, HO Scale yet? Our stock is running very low!**

Black with white NW lettering, rivet counter series, road numbers 6074, 6093, 6134.  
 Stock No. 134.52      HO Model SD40-2, Road numbers 6074, 6093 and 6134. DCC Ready.  
 Member Price: \$149.99  
 Non-Member Price: \$154.99

# The Commissary



Norfolk and Western Historical Society

## Brand New! Historic N&W Photographs suitable for framing!

### **The N&W Historic Photos Collection**

A brand new offering from N&WHS! These are extremely high quality images showing great detail and tone. Each has been hand selected for its quality and subject matter. These are printed from original negatives or images in our collection and offered here in great frame able sizes. These photos will only be available for a limited time each. We anticipate offering different images about 3 times a year. If you are interested in a size not offered, contact us for special pricing, as they will have to be custom prepared.

These photos are printed on order, normally they will be photographic prints and have, under proper conditions, a very long life without fading. To keep these prices reasonable, we have to order them in groups, so shipping on your order may take several weeks, if you need it by a specific date, please e-mail us at the Commissary and we will make every effort to get your prints done and back to you in time. But be aware, this may entail some rush shipping charges, but contact us and we will work with you. We will inform you of any price changes or shipping charges before we process your order. When ordering, you MUST specify the size print you want. Member pricing is shown in parenthesis.



2184 at Christiansburg, Va. - Beautiful, ultra crisp image

Stock No. 136.15A16 (16x20 size) ..... \$29.00 (\$27.00)

Stock No. 136.15A20 (20x30 size) ..... \$39.00 (\$36.00)

GP9 730 leads time freight , this was used as a *N&W Magazine* cover in November 1958

Stock No. 136.15B16 (16x20 size) ..... \$29.00 (\$27.00)

Stock No. 136.15B20 (20x30 size) ..... \$39.00 (\$36.00)

Class J No. 600 on delivery, this is a previously unpublished view of 600 on October 20, 1941

Stock No. 136.15C16 (16x20 size) ..... \$29.00 (\$27.00)

Stock No. 136.15C20 (20x30 size) ..... \$39.00 (\$36.00)



**HO Scale • Please support the Society with your order!**

*These prices are effective through June 30, 2019*

**Norfolk and Western 60' General Steel Castings Flat Car, 1971 lettering, HO Scale, Ready to Ship!**

This flat car is an ex-Wabash flat that has been repainted into N&W black. Lettering space is at a premium: N&W Decatur IL shops squeezed in stacked "Norfolk And Western" lettering vertically and applied the ACI Label on a separate steel plate. This car is available in two road numbers.



- Stock No. 134.57A HO Scale GSC 60' Flat Car R/N 300551 ..... Member Price: \$38.95 Non-Member Price: \$43.95
- Stock No. 134.57B HO Scale GSC 60' Flat Car R/N 300554 ..... Member Price: \$38.95 Non-Member Price: \$43.95

**Crosstie Models Norfolk Southern GS50, G82 Wood Chip Gondolas-Kit, HO Scale, Ready to Ship**

These are truly beautiful Norfolk Southern GS50 and G82 Wood Chip Gondola. This accurate model is built off of measurements, which were taken directly from the prototype, and represents a prototype that can be found throughout the NS system and elsewhere today. The prototype was built by Greenville Steel Car Co. and was labeled as a GS50 Gondola by the Southern Railway (SOU) and as a G82 Gondola by Norfolk Southern (NW). Detailed Urethane Body, metal wheels, separately applied ladders and underbody detail. Accurate Norfolk Southern / Southern Lettering. These cars carry NW reporting marks and the decals reflect that.

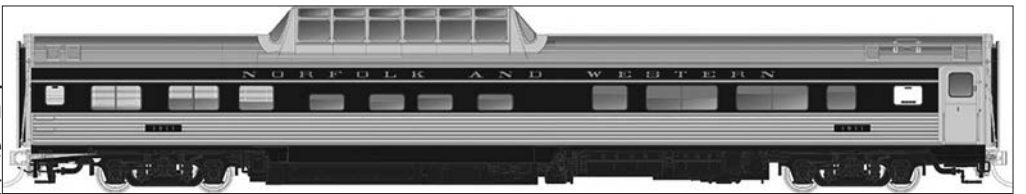


- Stock No. 134.51
- Crosstie Models GS50/G82 Wood Chip Gondola ..... Member Price: \$52.00
- ..... Non-Member Price: \$55.00



**Rapido N&W mid-train dome car, HO Scale, Ready to Ship**

Two car numbers on the ex-Wabash mid-train domes that were refurbished and used on the Powhatan Arrow and Pocahontas. This model is not



exact, a slight window difference makes them very close to the actual cars, but will look great in your Pevler-blue era train! These models are truly beautiful and amazing quality!

- Stock No. 134.56A Rapido HO Model Mid-Train Dome Car R/N 1611..... Member Price: \$88.95 Non-Member Price: \$93.95
- Stock No. 134.56B Rapido HO Model Mid-Train Dome Car R/N 1612 ..... Member Price: \$88.95 Non-Member Price: \$93.95

**Scale Trains N&W GATX 4180 CF Airslide Covered Hopper, HO Scale, Expected Delivery: April 2019**

Another great scale model for Scale Trains. Featuring four different numbers, 170802, 17806, 170824, 170833 equipped with gravity-pneumatic outlets with the mid 1960s Half Moon paint scheme. This is Scale Trains Rivet Counter series.



- Stock No. 134.53 Scale Trains HO Model GATX Air Slide Hopper ..... Member Price: \$39.99 Non-Member Price: \$44.99

## The Perfect Time of Year for Some Reading Material!

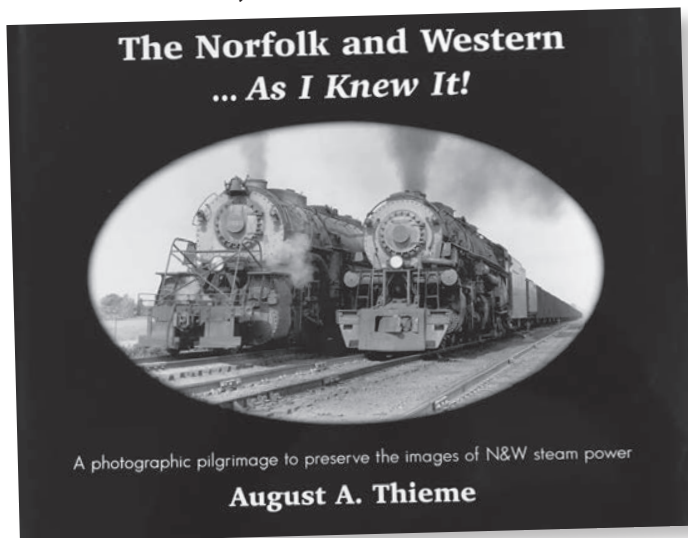
### Save and add some great books to your collection!

In doing our year-end inventory, we discovered a oversupply of some really nice books. We need space in our warehouse so we have marked these down to move them out, and you can save some money and add some outstanding books to your library.

#### ***The Norfolk & Western...As I Knew It!***

This is a magnificent book the Society was originally published in 2002. It is a beautifully printed volume featuring the lens work of the late August A. Thieme. This is a large format volume presents over 150 exquisite black and white photos of N&W steam trains in operation during the 1940s and 50s. Mainline coverage from Norfolk to west of Bluefield and the Abingdon and Blacksburg branches, Shenandoah Division, and industrial sites along the main line are included in this tribute to "America's last steam railroad." Hard cover w/dust jacket, 11" X 14" format, 175 pages, 150+ B&W views of steam power! These copies are mint, still sealed and once they are gone, they are gone! Great for modelers and detail fans! Stock No. 139.10 ..... Retail: \$64.95

**SPECIAL! Inventory Reduction Sale ..... \$45.00**



#### ***Wabash/Nickel Plate/DT&I Color Guide to Freight and Passenger Equipment***

This is the quality Morning Sun all color book featuring: Wabash: Passenger Cars, Freight Cars, Non-revenue; New Jersey, Indiana & Illinois: Equipment; American Refrigerator Transit: Equipment; Nickel Plate Road: Passenger Cars; Freight Cars; Non-revenue; ; Detroit & Toledo Shore Line: Freight Cars; Non-revenue; Detroit, Toledo & Ironton: Business Cars; Freight Cars; Non-revenue; Ann Arbor: Freight Cars; Non-revenue; Manistique & Lake Superior including Ferries. Morning Sun Books, hard cover with jacket, 128 pages, 8.5 x 11 in., all color photographs. These copies are mint, still sealed and once they are gone, they are gone! Great for modelers and detail fans! Much of this equipment (NKP/Wabash) later came to the N&W. Stock No. 138.123 ..... Retail: \$59.00

**SPECIAL! Inventory Reduction Sale ..... \$40.00**

