HIGHLIGHTS of AMERICAN RAILROAD HISTORY

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS
FOREWORD

In the history of nations and institutions, as well as in the lives of individuals, there are great and climactic moments which help to shape the destiny of men and the course of human events.

Likewise, in the history of railroads there are events and incidents which are clearly recognized as important milestones in the development of transportation. Other incidents, though perhaps without special historical significance, are of such a nature as to add life and color to the railroad story.

From hundreds of exciting events and interesting sidelights in American railroad history, seventy-two outstanding incidents were selected for pictorial treatment in the series of illustrations reproduced on the following pages.
FIRST RAILWAY SURVEY IN AMERICA CONDUCTED BY COLONEL JOHN STEVENS, AN EX-OFFICER OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, BETWEEN TRENTON AND RARITAN, NEW JERSEY, JANUARY, 1814.

JANUARY 2, 1832—FIRST ISSUE OF THE RAILROAD JOURNAL—OLDEST AMERICAN RAILROAD PERIODICAL IN CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE—NOW THE RAILWAY MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEER.

LONGEST RAILWAY TUNNEL IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE, 7.79 MILES IN LENGTH, COMPLETED IN WASHINGTON STATE JANUARY 12, 1929. TUNNELING BEGAN AT BOTH ENDS. SO ACCURATE WERE THE INSTRUMENTATIONS THAT THE BORES, EACH NEARLY 4 MILES IN LENGTH, WERE OUT OF ALIGNMENT ONLY THREE INCHES VERTICALLY AND NINE INCHES HORIZONTALLY.
FIRST FARE-PAYING PASSENGERS ON AN AMERICAN RAILROAD CARRIED AT BALTIMORE JANUARY 7, 1830.

GROUND BROKEN AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, JANUARY 9, 1830, FOR FIRST RAILROAD IN THE UNITED STATES TO EMPLOY STEAM POWER REGULARLY.

FIRST THROUGH TRAIN COMPLETED RUN FROM CHICAGO TO OHIO RIVER AT CAIRO, JANUARY 8, 1855.
February IN RAILROAD HISTORY

GROUND BROKEN FEBRUARY 25, 1832, NEAR 32ND STREET AND FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, FOR THE CITY'S PIONEER RAILROAD, ORIGINALLY OPERATED BY HORSE POWER. BY 1839 THE RAILROAD EXTENDED FROM PRINCE STREET, NEAR BROOKLYN BRIDGE, TO HARLEM, A DISTANCE OF 8 MILES.

HOOSAC TUNNEL, 4⅜ MILES IN LENGTH, UNDER HOOSAC MOUNTAIN, MASSACHUSETTS, COMPLETED FEBRUARY 9, 1875. FOR 53 YEARS THIS WAS THE LONGEST RAILWAY TUNNEL IN THE UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND, ON FEBRUARY 4, 1887, SIGNED THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT CREATING THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.
PULLMAN PALACE CAR COMPANY, FOUNDED BY GEORGE M. PULLMAN, CHARTERED IN ILLINOIS FEBRUARY 22, 1867, TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE DELUXE SLEEPING AND HOTEL CARS.

FIRST RAILROAD IN THE FAR WEST OPENED FEBRUARY 22, 1856, FOR A DISTANCE OF 22 MILES OUT OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

FIRST TRAIN PASSED THROUGH THE MOFFAT TUNNEL IN COLORADO — SECOND LONGEST RAILROAD TUNNEL IN THE UNITED STATES — FEBRUARY 26, 1928.
FIRST TREE FELLED MARCH 10, 1830, IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIVE-MILE PONTCHARTRAIN RAILROAD—EXTENDING FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT NEW ORLEANS TO LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN. THIS WAS THE FIRST RAILROAD IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

FIRST RAILWAY EXPRESS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHED MARCH 4, 1839, IN THE CARPETBAG OF WILLIAM F. HARNDEN, TRAVELING BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BOSTON.

THE "OREGON PONY", FIRST LOCOMOTIVE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, ARRIVED AT PORTLAND, OREGON, MARCH 31, 1862.
GRANITE RAILWAY, FIRST INCORPORATED COMPANY TO BUILD AND OPERATE A RAILROAD IN THE UNITED STATES, CHARTERED IN MASSACHUSETTS MARCH 4, 1826.

FIRST RAILROAD TO CROSS A MOUNTAIN RANGE BY MEANS OF A SERIES OF INCLINED PLANES OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN PENNSYLVANIA MARCH 18, 1834.

FIRST TRAIN EVER TO CROSS A BRIDGE SUSPENDED BY WIRE CABLES PASSED OVER NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE MARCH 16, 1855.
THE "GENERAL", MOST FAMOUS LOCOMOTIVE OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD, CAPTURED BY YANKEE RAIDERS, WAS PURSUED AND RECAPTURED BY CONFEDERATES AFTER A THRILLING 100-MILE CHASE—APRIL 12, 1862.

FIRST RAILROAD BRIDGE TO SPAN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER OPENED AT DAVENPORT, IOWA, APRIL 21, 1856.

CAR PROPELLED BY SAILS OPERATED EXPERIMENTALLY ON A RAILROAD RUNNING OUT OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA—APRIL 1, 1830.