

'Big Boy' Locomotive on Display

To The Dallas News:

The members of the Southwest Railroad Historical Society appreciate your recent front-page coverage given to the arrival of the "Big Boy" locomotive which has been placed on permanent display in the "Age of Steam" exhibit at the State Fair of Texas.

At the time your picture was taken we were feeling very much as if we had a "whale out of water" due to the trackage problems that arose, but thanks to Superintendents B. O. Bernard and L. B. Griffin of the Santa Fe and the Texas and Pacific, respectively, and their expert workmen, the difficulties were finally overcome and the huge locomotive proceeded without further incident to Fair Park.

The exact cause of the breaking down of the rail was due to the fact that insufficient lateral play was present in the drive wheels for such a sharp curve, and the source of the binding which prevented this needed flexibility was finally pinpointed in two locations, one being in the brake rigging and the other in the coupling between the locomotive and tender. After the brakes were freed and one of the two drawbars which formed the coupling was severed, the locomotive very dramatically repositioned itself, the rail straightened up and it was obvious that it was safe to proceed.

The contribution of this outsized piece

of railroad equipment to our exhibit is unique in two respects. To begin with, the Union Pacific, which was donor of the locomotive, does not run anywhere close to Dallas. Yet it thought enough of our city to place it here due in a great measure to the large yearly attendance registered at Fair Park.

In addition, the Santa Fe was most cooperative and generous in transporting without charge this engine belonging to its largest competitor from their meeting point at Kansas City to Dallas.

Many interested persons put forth a great amount of effort in arranging for this addition to the exhibit which is being established so that younger generations will be able to see how America traveled during the 1920-1950 era.

The exhibit is to be operated on a non-profit basis being jointly supported by the State Fair and by SRHS through sales of its recently published book, "Iron Horses of the Santa Fe Trail."

Restoration is being done by SRHS with the assistance of the 719th Army Reserve Railroad Battalion which is stationed in Dallas. All equipment will be restored to as near original condition as possible.

M. D. MONAGHAN, President,
Southwest Railroad Historical Society,
P. O. Box 609, Garland, Texas.