

# THE STATES-ITEM

Thursday, April 15, 1971

THURSDAY

THIRTY-THREE

## Lagniappe



### Train Buffs Chase Relic All the Way to Picayune

By THOMAS GRIFFIN

HUNDREDS OF railroad train buffs turned out last weekend at the Union Passenger Terminal to view, admire and take pictures of the old-fashioned Southern Railway train with its 1904 locomotive that made two round trips from New Orleans to Hattiesburg on Saturday and Sunday; but apparently none was more smitten than a girl (who begs anonymity) and her brother.

Seems they couldn't bear to see the train leave on its last run, so with the girl driving they highballed it in their car to Slidell for another look. But the crowds to greet the train in Slidell were so large they couldn't get as near to it as they liked—so back into the car and on to Picayune. There, their luck was better. They got a good long farewell gander at the object of their affection. The brother, incidentally, collects trains—the living-room variety, that is—and pictures.

So popular was the old train with train-lovers, it was sold out on both trips. In Hattiesburg the passengers were given box lunches for sustenance on the return journey. And I'm sure that some buffs were so smitten with the relic, they brightened up the woodwork with

The train  
in 1971

rade to the post . . . Speaking of face fuzz, one has to look twice to recognize young Layton Martens (once much in the news) with a moustache and goatee, plus his long blond hair; he's a sub school teacher now and working on his master's degree; hopes to teach permanently in the fall . . . Big day coming up for the performing arts tomorrow when Nancy Hanks, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, checks in for a weekend visit; she's the girl who hands out federal grants to symphony orchestras, repertory theatres, opera and ballet companies . . . If you ask Philip Hedderel, he'll be glad to tell you his fish story; he caught a 60-pound, four-ounce king mackerel out of Empire, a Louisiana record.

HITHER AND YON—Helen Mary Parker checking out a journal in New Zealand. Tahiti . . . A young boy . . .