Buford Nash

C&O Chief Buford Nash To End Railroad Career

By W. W. EDGAR

Buford Nash, who came out the hills of Tennessee 45 years ago to begin a career in railroading in Michigan, is going back to his home in Maggie Valley, N.C., with many fond memories.

The hillbilly youth who rose to the lofty position of General Manager of the C&O Railroad and has been known as Mr. Railroad to the people in Plymouth and the entire metropolitan area, leaned across his desk and smilingly said --

"Yes, I'm planning to leave here in the fall and go back to chasing snakes in the mountains.

"Little did I think when I landed in Grand Rapids -- away back in 1924 -- that the day would come when I would retire as the general manager. But here I am and I have no regrets over the years I spent in the business."

* * *

A BIG RUGGED chap, who can be as gruff as they come, and in the next minute enjoy a laugh with the best of them, he is a typical example of a railroad executive who is at home in the chief executive's private car.

Told that he would be missed in Plymouth where he has been a central figure in many an argument over the long delays at the various crossings, he smiled and answered --

"And don't think I won't be missing you folks, too. But my successor is just as capable of giving you a good argument as we have enjoyed through the years."

* * *

BUFORD CONFIDED that the memories of the meetings in Plymouth are just a few of the many he will carry with him into retirement.

"I've experienced all phases of railroading," he recalled. "There have been a lot of headaches and tears along the way -- and good times and smiles aplenty. All told, I've had a grand time."

He was forced to smile when it was pointed out that he had become a man of letters -- just as the graduates of our institutions of higher learning.

"That's right," he chuckled. "I started with the Pere Marquette, then advanced to the Chesapeake & Ohio and later with the Baltimore & Ohio...so I can list PM, C & O, and B & O -- not bad for a kid from the hills."

A strong disciple of the old steam engine that marked the railroads of the old days, he was quick to assert that one of the greatest changes he had seen in railroading over the past half century was the advent of the diesel engine.

"Yes," he said, "the diesel helped bring about economy on the railroads. It made possible longer trains and it had a part in the construction of longer cars.

"All these things combined to bring about better service."

* * *

AMONG THE REGRETS he will take with him while chasing those snakes back in the hills will be decline of passenger service.

"The demand for this type of service fell off," he explained, "and you never stock your shelves with the items for which there is no sale."

Buford has no definite time table -- something unusual for a railroad man.

"I'm planning to leave not later than the first of the year," he commented, "but it could be earlier. I just have to wait and see how things work out."

But whenever he goes he will leave a void...for he is the best-known railroad man in the state.

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Burroughs Reports Hike In Earnings For 1969

Ray W. Macdonald, president of Burroughs Corporation, Monday reported record earnings, revenues, incoming orders and backlogs for the six month period ending June 30.

Indicated net operating earnings for the six month period were $20,665,000, a 31 per cent increase over the 1968 operating earnings of $15,746,000. Net earnings per share were $1.25 based on 16,525,113 average shares outstanding.

Earnings per share for the 1968 six month period were $.96 on 16,404,320 average shares outstanding. The shares outstanding for both periods are based on the stock split effective March 28.

* * *

ESTIMATED United States and foreign income taxes for the six months were $22,380,000, compared with $15,750,000 in the 1968 period.

Revenue for the six month period totaled $351,298,000, a 17 per cent increase compared with $299,210,000 in the 1968 period.

Second quarter net earnings were $13,056,000, or 70 cents per share. This is a 31 per cent increase over the 1968 second quarter earnings of $9,975,000, or 54 cents per share. Revenues for the quarter were $188,223,000, a 19 per cent increase compared with last year's second quarter revenues of $158,814,000.

* * *

MACDONALD SAID worldwide orders for the six month period were a strong 20 per cent above the same period last year. Incoming orders for commercial products and services were up 27 per cent; and while new government contracts have increased considerably since the March quarter, they have not yet equaled last year's six month position.

He also noted that orders for the adding machine, calculating and accounting machine product areas were notably strong with orders exceeding last year's six month position by 15 per cent.

Incoming orders for electronic data processing products and systems, including central systems, peripheral devices and terminals, continued at high levels for the six month period and were 46 per cent ahead of the same period in 1968.

Arab Soldier Left His Mark

A brilliant Arab scholar of the Ninth century, Al Khowarizmi, used the zero to advantage in his classic work Al-Jebr w'al muquabalah. The title, abbreviated, became the world "algebra." The term "logarithm" supposedly is a distortion of the scholar's name.

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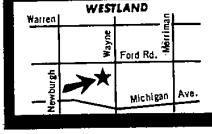

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