BBMRA PO BOX 3392 **TALL, FL** 32315-3392



BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION'S CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--|-----------|----------|--------|--------------------------|
| Feb 11 | Feb 12 | Feb 13 | Feb 14 | Feb 15 | Feb 16 | Feb 17 Jacksonville Trip |
| Feb 18 | Feb 19 | Feb 20 Meeting 7:30 to 10 pm Community Room Myers Park | Feb 21 | Feb 22 | Feb 23 | Feb 24 Kid's Tour |
| Feb 25 | Feb 26 | Feb 27 | Feb 28 | Mar 1 | Mar 2 | Mar 3 |
| Feb 4 | Mar 5 | Mar 6 | Mar 7 | Mar 8 | Mar 9 | Mar 10 |
| Mar 11 | Mar 12 | Mar 13 | Mar 14 | Mar 15 | Mar 16 | Mar 17 |
| Mar 18 | Mar 19 | Mar 20 | Mar 21 | Mar 22 | Mar 23 | Mar 24 |

Thanks for

By Sam Miller, President

Thanks for your suppo working with Vice Presiappreciate your decisio will serve as co-coordin-

As I have said several theing a BBMRA member

Kids Day W

Please participate in ou of the Lantern. Activitineighbor's kids, any you the old train depot for th

Van Trips t

As I am putting this contails railroading memorabilia the Seaboard and Atlar Suburban and a van. Suburban and a van. Suburban and a van. Suburban and catch rides with BE there is interest. Larry suburban suburb

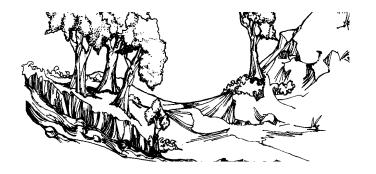
Let Larry, John or me k club members. We will

State Muse

The HO setup was ope January 27th. We wer entrance. It was the pe to look. We have beer than the time before. Wused Sal Martocci's traidarn thing up.

Upcoming

We will have a busy spi April. We will discuss trade. This should be a house is available, but constructed, Drew Hackmeyer will demonstrate his techniques for laying "sod." It's easy, quick and looks good. Come to Myers Park and check it out.



Ambrose's Book Interesting, But A Hard Read

A Book Review by Larry Benson - Veep

Stephen Ambrose's book entitled "Nothing Like It In The World" is interesting, but I found it also hard to read in places. In fact, somewhere about the third or fourth chapter I began to skip paragraphs and read only the first sentence or so in others.

His book published in 2000 by Simon & Schuster (\$28 - \$16.48 at Sam's) carries the more descriptive subtitle: "The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869." If it wasn't for the subtitle and the picture of men laying track which illustrates the front of the dust jacket, a casual shopper might mistake the book to be about a trip to the moon rather than building a railroad across the continent.

Six or eight chapters are filled with the politics and infighting which occurred in Congress and among the major players involved. Selecting the route, the shenanigans practiced when financing construction and the forceful exercising of power by powerful men revealed in minute detail that I found uninteresting and quite frankly boring.

Woven in between and around these revelations are some interesting paragraphs about the actual surveying, blasting, grading, filling, bridge building and tunneling accomplished during construction. Ambrose has captured the dust, sweat, backbreaking labor and danger experienced by workmen as they toiled to get track down. One of the most interesting parts of the book is his description of how the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, who were racing to out-build each other and who faced worker shortages, solved their problems by hiring Chinese laborers by the thousands. The way these Chinese lived and worked is a highlight in Ambrose's narrative and he states that the railroad probably would not have been completed except for these workers who were imported from the far east.

I saw somewhere that Ambrose's book made a best seller's list, probably because, like me, the American public still has a romance with railroads and people buy books about them. While it is worth reading if your are interested in the history of the transcontinental railroad, I would have resisted the temptation to buy a copy had I known how it was written. Rather, I would have waited and checked it out at the library.

2001 SCHEDULE & TIMETABLE: all meetings 7:30 to 10pm

February 20th 3rd Tuesday
March 20th 3rd Tuesday
April 17th 3rd Tuesday
May 15th 3rd Tuesday
June 19th 3rd Tuesday
July 17th 3rd Tuesday

Myers Park Community Room Myers Park Community Room Florida Insurance Council Myers Park Community Room Myers Park Community Room Florida Insurance Council The track was 29 miles "B") in Calhoun County

During its final days, the pines of North Florida.

On a bad day in the '70 M&B locomotive in a ra two miles through my fa

You could swallow a fis up in two halves. The cawake like an exhauste

Around Marianna, plent on a greased track in th

Allegedly, there was a actually carried paying custom-glide ride.

One elderly lady said "the watch her handsome, do the town in Calhoun Co

Throughout the '30s, '40 the payloads were unloads

Optimistic businessmen

"Mighty Bridge-crosser"

Near the end, when the before the wheels met brakes off and the gear would eventually idle int

The M&B finally died in

Later, the line was bou was true, but a bunch o railroad. Alas, even the

There's talk these days good set of Rollerblades

2001 Memb