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**Official Says
Argonaut Train
Loss Is Heavy**

The Argonaut passenger train between El Paso and Houston has been operated at a loss of \$250,000 a year, the Texas and New Orleans Railroad Co. said today.

The T. and N. O., a Southern Pacific subsidiary, has asked permission to discontinue the Argonaut. Hearings on the request will be held in San Antonio Feb. 17 and El Paso March 18.

Railroad brotherhoods, including the El Paso lodges, and some shippers are opposing the abandonment.

Denies Charges

A high T. and N. O. official issued a statement to The Herald-Post from Houston denying charges by union spokesmen that the railroad has deliberately sought to make the Argonaut unpopular in order to show an operating loss.

"It has been alleged we purposely tried to kill patronage on the Argonaut," the rail official said. "This is not so. We have never tried to 'kill' a train. We try to get all the revenue possible from each train.

"Our total passenger revenues have been decreasing since 1948. Revenues have decreased by more than \$150,000 a year every year from 1951 to 1957. Our 1957 revenues were less than half of what they were in 1951.

"We have used every means of economy we could to keep on operating the Argonaut. But patronage is so little that we can't afford to keep on."

The T. and N. O. official denied union assertions that service and equipment on the Argonaut have been purposely curtailed to bolster the railroad's claim that the train is unprofitable.

Seek Economy

He said the Argonaut (Nos. 5 and 6) was consolidated with S. P. Rock Island trains No. 39 and 40 west of El Paso as a matter of economics. By combining the trains the S. P. has a chance to make the service pay, he said. Schedules were set not to inconvenience passengers, but to make mail connections, he said.

"It is not true that we have refused to sell Pullman space," the spokesman said. "We have never done that if the space is available."

He also denied Argonaut cars are not cleaned, and denied that the eastbound Argonaut departs late from El Paso because of a "slowdown" to make the train unpopular. He said the train has been leaving late on occasion because it was delayed to await mail and express hauled by No. 40 from the West Coast.

In answer to a brotherhood statement that the railroad has received freight rate increases to make up for declining passenger revenues, the T. and N. O. official said: "Raises in freight rates are always followed by wage increases for employees. The rate increases are not enough to take care of the wage increases."

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**Farmers to Get
Big Water Flow**

(Continued from Page One)

325,000 acre feet instead of 380,000 acre feet in January.

At Chamita, where the Chama and Rio Grande meet, the forecast is for 445,000 acre feet instead of 465,000 acre feet.

"A lot depends on snows that fall from now on this winter," Mr. Warren said. "They are the ones that do the most good. The Soil Conservation Service reports that soil is in unusually wet condition, which is conducive to a good runoff. Prospects at Elephant Butte are better than in several years."

Measurements Lacking
Mr. Resch said that although the forecast is reduced only slightly, the flow is "disappointing."

He said that of the 800,000 acre feet now forecast for the water year, 311,000 acre feet already has been received at Butte.

Combined storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs today was 832,000 acre feet, compared with 61,500 acre feet a year ago and a normal of about 1,000,000 acre feet.

Mr. Warren said that although there is snow over much of the watershed, specific measurements are lacking for many stations. Cumbrés Pass reported 35 inches, compared with 46 inches in January. Wolf Creek Pass reported 52 inches of snow, somewhat less than last year's measurement. Water content of snow at Wolf Creek is 16.7 inches, compared with an average of 17.6 inches.

IN HER STRIDE—There's talk of a supporting-role Oscar for blue-eyed, blonde, 22-year-old Hope Lange for her acting in the film "Peyton Place." But Hope isn't surprised at the acclaim. She's convinced she can reach stardom. She's been working hard at acting since she appeared in a Pulitzer Prize play at 12. Overnight fame? She laughs. "Even the Eskimos don't have nights that long!"

**No Stand-In Used
For Margaret,
Artist Declares**

By Associated Press
LE HAVRE, France, Feb. 10.—I used no stand-in to paint the portrait of Princess Margaret," Italian Painter Pietro Annigoni declared today.

Georgina Moore, a Cockney showgirl whose stage specialty is appearing in the nude, recently claimed she posed as a stand-in while Annigoni painted the body portion of his much-discussed portrait, Margaret and Georgina were said to have the same measurements.

Princess Margaret posed 33 times, for an hour and a half each time, and that was enough to paint a faithful portrait, Annigoni asserted.

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**Patterson Cat
Heads to Court**

(Continued from Page One)

after the cat nipped one of the Belson children on a finger.

Dr. Cady and his assistant, Wendell Broughton, immediately recognized Tommy as the Patterson cat. Tommy had been to the Cady Animal Hospital many times, sometimes for medical or surgical attention and at other times for care while the Pattersons were away.

Dr. Cady kept Tommy, knowing how much he was prized by Mrs. Patterson. Mr. Roth and others of the Patterson firm management failed to take a look at the cat. They never have looked at the cat, but contend the cat is not Tommy, the Patterson cat.

Dr. Cady sent a bill on Jan. 23 to Herbert Roth, asking payment for observing the cat for rabies and for keep from Sept. 3 to Sept. 17, \$21; and for board since Sept.

17 at \$1 a day, \$133, a total of \$154 to Jan. 28.

Mr. Roth wrote Dr. Cady on Feb. 3:

"Your bill of Jan. 28, 1958, was received and inasmuch as it was addressed to me, I took it to Mr. D. J. Smith, attorney for Mr. Patterson.

"Enclosed is a copy of a letter written to me by Mr. Smith, which is self-explanatory.

"I am sorry to have to refuse payment of your bill but have no alternative, especially as there is some doubt in our minds as to the ownership of the cat, and we did not place the cat in your care."

The letter from Mr. Smith to Mr. Roth said, "Since it is doubtful that the cat held by Dr. D. L. Cady belonged to the Pattersons and they did not leave it with him or in any way contract for its treatment and board, you as receiver of Patterson Photo Supplies should reject Dr. Cady's claim for \$150.

"As receiver, you do not have authority to make personal contracts unless ordered to do so by the Courts."

The Cecil Wards of Ward Motor Clinic at 2600 Wyoming street have known the Pattersons and Tommy the cat for years. Dr. Cady today asked the Wards to look at the cat in question. Mrs. Ward and son, Charles, went to the animal hospital. Tommy was on a table. Mrs. Ward and Charles walked up and looked long at the cat. Mrs. Ward called softly, "Tommy!"

Tommy went to her, sniffed her

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arm, rubbed his head against her and then placed his whole body against her and rubbed and purred. He also "greeted" Charles with all the affection a cat can show, rubbing and purring.
"It's Tommy," Mrs. Ward said. "There is no doubt about it." Charles said the same.

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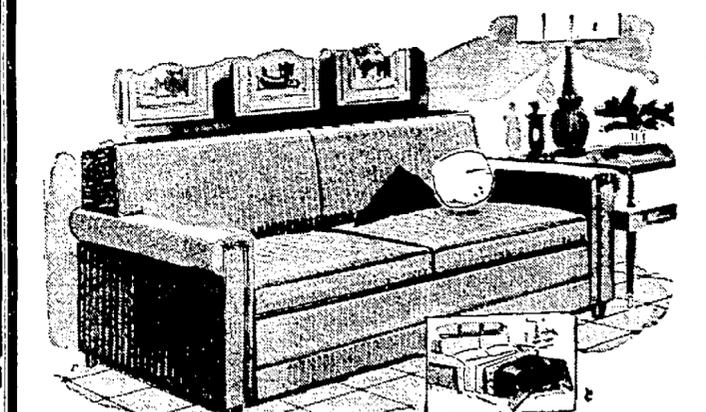
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A wide yoke of embroidered nylon organza edged with a pleated ruffle graces this delicate little dress that also boasts an embroidered apron ruffle. Sizes 3 to 6X. **5⁹⁹**