



Ferris Dennis of Atlantic is what might be known as a railroad "fanatic". He's dedicated to the railroads of the nation and he's ridden on so many of them that seldom does he spot box car initials that are strange. What makes him interesting at the present time is that he's establishing the Ferris Dennis Railroad of 30 feet in the Atlantic area. The only mobile equipment that he will have will be a Copper Range caboose, No. 05.

Not long back the CRRR locomotive switched the end car onto the old Flour Mill spur at Atlantic and there it was resting when these words were written.

The car, substantial in its construction, began to be used by the Copper Range in 1913. It came from the Pittsburgh Shawmut and Northern Railroad and was built by the Russell Snowplow Co. Since its purchase it has been used all the way from McKeever to Gay and from Senter to Freda.

Dennis says his line will be the shortest in the United States at 30 to 40 feet in length. The wheels will be retained on the mobile unit and it is noted that there are eight of these.

When placed on the Flour Mill spur Dennis well realized that in the former days of Atlantic this is where the town had a flour mill. In the days between 1900 and 1906 Copper Range got a big business life out of Atlantic which operated until the latter year when the mines ceased to function. Later came the Stratton Lumber Co. which also gave the line a big haulage boost.

On the very spur on which the 'boose now is perched the former Adams Township Schools student train also stopped. There it waited for pupils while either rock haulage or Freda caterance to pupils from Stanton Township was indulged in. Ferris will tell one that his wife, the former Miss Ester Heikkinen, used to ride the CRRR school train. So did her mother, the former Miss Marie Lehti who used to be a teacher on the range.

The No. 05 is in excellent condition. Its windows are unaffected by the long period of service it went through and its doors, fore and aft, are near perfect. There are two ladders leading to the cupola and these are also in A-No. 1 state of preservation. When Mr. and Mrs. Dennis have completed moving their essence of railroading three blocks to their home site they will drive a "golden" spike to commemorate the activity they have engaged in. As for the purpose of the line and caboose, Dennis says it is primarily for the grandchildren. [Daily Mining Gazette Green Sheet Article 1972]