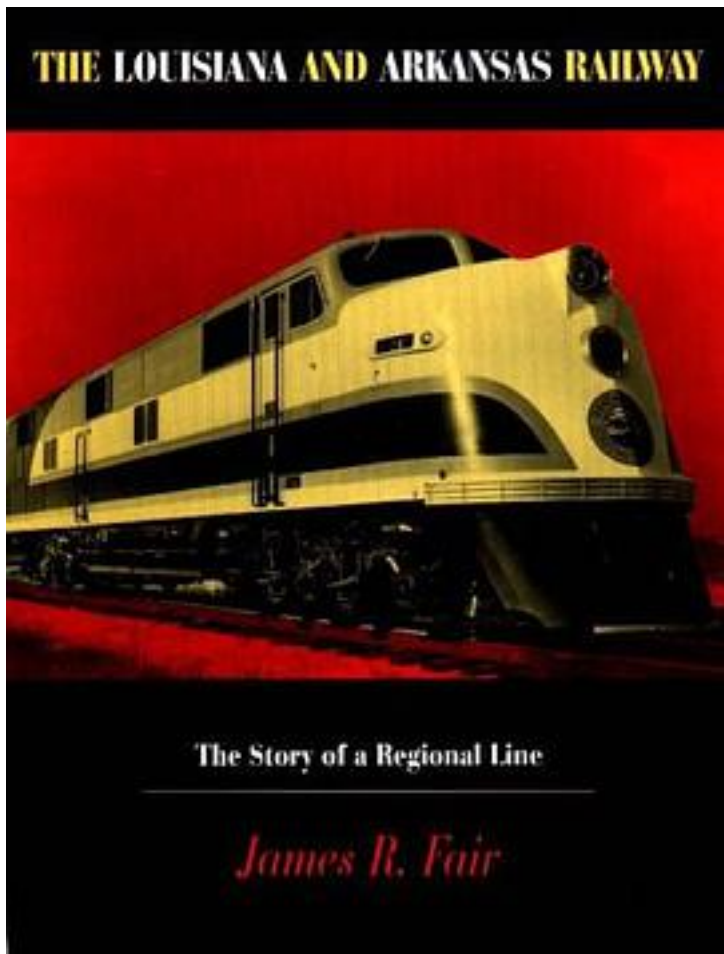


The Louisiana and Arkansas Railway



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The Louisiana & Arkansas Railway, known as "The Better Way, " ran its first trains at the turn of the century and expanded over the years to connect New Orleans to Dallas. Well-maintained and enduringly profitable, this regional railroad succeeded because

of the tenacity of three men who consecutively oversaw all aspects of operations. The story of L&A is largely a collective biography of William Edenborn, William Buchanan, and Harvey Couch - the men who built and extended the line by shrewd acquisitions. These successful businessmen combined wisdom, foresight, and propensity for hard work - traits they had first demonstrated in other careers - with their longtime love for trains. Each applied remarkable talents for industry and commerce toward the development of L&A to mold it into a model regional railroad. In this first history of the L&A, Fair traces the line's development from the early boom days of railroading to its dissolution in the modern era of takeovers. Although for much of its existence the L&A operated under the control of a parent company, the KCS, it long maintained independence. The eventual takeover by the superline in 1992 finally dissolved the L&A entirely.

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