

## ● Train-watching in Selma, N.C.

REPORTS of the demise of the train-watcher since steam have been exaggerated, as Mark Twain would say. So long as flanged wheels cling to steel rails, there'll be someone down at the depot to respond to the drama. On a June morning last summer down in Selma, N.C. (population 3102) that someone was a boy on a bike and the drama was a southbound Southern local freight holding at the home signal while Coast Line 376, the *Everglades*, clattered over the diamond to make its 11:05 a.m. scheduled stop. Plenty of material here for the train-watcher. The low-numbered Alco hood leading the EMD cab unit on the local, for example, belongs to SR's subsidiary Carolina & Northwestern, and she sports a "firecracker" radio antenna atop her cab. Even more interesting is the elderly E6, No. 507, bringing in train 376. She was born in November 1940 (considerably earlier than our boy on the bike) and once bore the name *Champion* on her flanks with purple-tinted streamlined cars behind to match. No wonder the boy is at trainside. I'd wager that Selma station, where the rails cross, is as interesting a place to pass the time of day as Johnston County, N.C., possesses. — D.P.M.







Both photos, J. P. Lamb Jr.

