

Sounds of Steam Locomotives

Volume IV



Harold S. Ludlow

CONTENTS:
1 Sound disc
Descriptive notes

PN
2091
S6
S824
1958
c.1

MUSIC LP

Great New York Central: Hudson, Mohawk and Niagara

Recorded and Narrated by Harold S. Ludlow

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Sounds of Steam Locomotives

Volume IV FOLKWAYS RECORDS FX 6155

Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. R58-30

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43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C., U.S.A.

The Great New York Central: Hudson, Mohawk and Niagara

Recorded and Narrated by Harold S. Ludlow

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The Great New York Central:
Hudson, Mohawk and Niagara



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I have been a so-called "Rail Fan" since I was 5 years old in 1891 and have seen the link and pin coupler, the wood burners, American 8-wheelers, 10-wheelers, Prairies, Columbia's, Moguls, Berkshires, Pacifics, Hudsons, Mohawks, Niagaras and Mallets in operation.

Six years ago I retired from the telephone business after about 50 years service but my avocation always was the development of the "iron horse" that built America out of a wilderness.

Harold S. Ludlow

To our minds there is nothing in the realm of sound to equal those matchless New York Central Hudson Locomotives barking out of town at midnight accompanied by their typical high pitched chimes.

The actual sounds of those great engines have not been heard for a year or more and will never be heard again except on mechanical or magnetic recordings.

This reel you will note, is marked "Hudsons" since most of the sounds were those of the New York Central Hudson type locomotives, although a few were of the Mohawk and Niagara types; notably the Niagara #6019 that is identified by my recorded voice.

My microphone was only about 300 feet from that engine when it stopped, so you hear all the sounds from it standing and starting up. George Moore of Toledo, Ohio, was the engineer on it, making his final run before his retirement in September of 1954.

For versatility and speed in passenger service I don't think the #5300 and #5400 N.Y.C. Series were ever equalled.

In general, the "high pitched" whistles are those of the #5200 and #5300 series of engines and the lower pitched are those of the #5400, #3000 and #6000 series.

