

In Memorium: John Fike, Former Editor of the *Quarterly*, December 1, 1937-May 26, 2016

John Lee Fike, Jr., age 78, telecommunications professor and avid rail historian, died May 26, 2016, at Boulder Community Health hospital, Boulder, Colorado. He was born December 1, 1937, to John Lee Fike, Sr., and Mary LaRue Huggans Fike in Muskogee, OK. John graduated from Muskogee Central High School in 1955, received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering (Computer Science), in 1961 and 1962, respectively, from Oklahoma State University. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta, Oklahoma Beta Chapter. Upon graduation he worked at Cape Canaveral during the Cuban missile crisis in down-range missile tracking, then worked on the project that designed of the original Mission Control at the Johnson Spacecraft Center in Houston.

John was a member of numerous rail historical organizations including the R&LHS, NRHS, NARP, ColoRail, and The Lexington Group. He was especially knowledgeable about the railroads of northeastern Oklahoma, particularly the Katy, the Midland Valley, and the KO&G, giving programs about their history and development to a variety of organizations. He was a lifetime member of the OSU Alumni Association, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and Mensa. He was proud of never having missed a reunion of his high school Class of '55.

These excerpts are from his obituary published in [*The Eagle*](#) in Bryan / College Station, TX where he and his wife Linda lived for many years. Two others were published, one in his hometown newspaper, *The Muskogee Phoenix*, and a shorter one in *The Denver Post*. They can be found online by googling, "John Fike obituary" plus the name of the newspaper.