



# THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB

MAY 2013 - MEMBERS EDITION

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## LOCATION

ETSU Campus  
George L. Carter  
Railroad Museum

## HOURS

Business Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 PM in:

Brown Hall  
Room 312  
ETSU Campus,  
Johnson City, TN.

Open House for viewing every Saturday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Work Nights are held each Thursday from 5:00 pm until ??

## THE VIEW FROM THE ENGINEER'S SIDE OF THE CAB THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The coming of spring and the ending of the Spring Semester at East Tennessee State University are comingling with a lot of activities at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum and the members of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club. Please read carefully as there is a lot of information for your calendar and more requests than usual for your help with a lot of things over the next few weeks.

I need to apologize to our members for being the reason the minutes of the April MEMRR Business Meeting did not make it into the April edition of *The Signal Bridge*. Our secretary, **Hobie Hyder**, got them to me for editing a few days after the meeting as is his pattern and I did not have time to get my read-through of them done when they arrived. I am afraid that as more time went by and additional scores of emails arrived on my university computer, all seemingly needing some kind of attention, that the unedited minutes slipped further and further down the column and eventually out of sight; out-of-sight-and-out-of-mind. I just got to them in the second week of May and routed the edited version to **Hobie** and to **Bob Jones**, our Webmaster with the request they be routed to our membership electronically. I have also asked **Ted**, or newsletter editor, to tuck them into the May edition of *The Signal Bridge* so we can have a permanent hard copy if he has the space to do so.

**Road closings on ETSU campus:** *Because of the construction of the parking garage at ETSU two access roads onto the campus from the State of Franklin are going to be closed as of 14 May.* Robert Bell Drive, the easiest access to the Carter RR Museum will be closed permanently to create more pedestrian walking space. Jack Vest Drive will be closed temporarily until August and then reopened. The Railroad Museum access if you are traveling from the western side of the campus on State of Franklin will be to turn south onto Greenwood Drive and then take the next left onto Jack Vest or go one block further south on Greenwood and turn left onto Seehorn Drive following it to the stop sign and then left onto Robert Bell Dr. making a right onto Ross Drive to the entrance to the museum. These are part of the growing pains that come with construction and progress towards a safer campus for pedestrians.

**ETSU Cafeteria:** Some of us have been dining at 5:00 p.m. at the ETSU cafeteria, The Marketplace, prior to our monthly business meetings, and on Saturdays when we take a lunch break from work in the Carter Railroad Museum. With the ending of the semester and many students going home for the summer, *the cafeteria will undergo some renovations and will be closed from May 9<sup>th</sup> until early June.* For our May meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> (I will be here to preside at that meeting) let's plan on dining at the Magic Wok on South Roan Street, a block south of State of Franklin, at 5:00. **Next business meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in room 312 Brown Hall ETSU.** I will be in town and presiding.

May is bringing with it a very busy schedule for your president who is still an active biology professor with a research program in addition to his teaching (my railroading and model railroading were supposed to be an additional hobby) and as you can see from the May schedule I had our **Webmaster Bob Jones**, route to everyone electronically on May 6<sup>th</sup>, I will be out of town more this month than I shall be in Tennessee. *I really need the officers and the membership to step up and take up any slack in my absence for many of the following events.*

**Public Exhibits:** The Carter Railroad Museum, the Carter Chapter NRHS and the MEMRR will be represented by displays featuring the Cope Traveling HO layout and other items at the Johnson City Blue Plum Festival June 7-9<sup>th</sup>, and Jonesborough Days June 28-30<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help get the displays ready, transported to our designated display spots, and manned during these two events. We will be in the Hands-On Museum for Blue Plum and in the Jonesborough Storytelling Center for Jonesborough Days. I have asked **Jim Pahr** to act as coordinator for these two events and he will be asking you for help as well. Please mark these two events on your calendar and give the Chapter and the RR Museum as much of your time as you can. The MEMRR members will be helping with these

events as well. Give us your ideas for additional display materials we can use at Jonesborough as we will have plenty of space to do so and, remember, we want to display some of the steam train photos from the current club photo contest at this event so begin to submit your pictures (Photo Contest rules are in a previous edition of *The Signal Bridge*).



Rock Island in Denver 02-02-1969

**Birthday Parties:** All of you are aware of the Little Engineers play room at the Carter RR Museum and that one of the services we offer to children and their parents is a location to provide birthday parties with a railroading theme. Until recently the rooms had not been available to us because of renovations begun in the building that temporarily precluded their use for such events. We now once more have access for small parties in the room we used previously on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and room 102 just down the hall from the museum for larger groups.

Our two outstanding sisters who work with our little engineers have also been promoting birthday parties, and **Allan Morton** has likewise been drumming up business for us at his job at HobbyTownUSA. **Michelle Kelly** has created a Facebook page for the museum and part of that page addresses our birthday party packages at the RR Museum. The response has been quick and very positive from parents whose children have birthdays looming on the horizon. Many of these folks are regular visitors to the Railroad Museum and we are delighted to be able to host their child's parties here once more. I have made arrangements with the department that controls room 102 to have the key to the room through August. We will be able to leave the decorations up all summer once we install them instead of having to decorate/undecorate for each party.

**Amanda Blackburn** and **Kelly** will provide as much help as they can for each event, but we will need some help with moving tables and chairs for each event and that's where I hope each of you will be able to help. My biology colleague,

**Dr. Stacey Wild**, will pick up the party balloons for each party and help with the setup each morning. The university will deliver chairs for each event to room 108 (our big

workroom) the Friday before and pick them up at the same place the Monday afterwards. We will need to bring two of the big tables down from our storage room in 236 for use in the party room and move the collection of chairs and desks in that room now out into the hall for the day and back into 102 as we clean up after each party. Should be a piece of cake!!!!

We now have birthday parties scheduled for the following Saturdays: **May 18<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>??, September (date to be confirmed)**. So, as you can see are going to be busy for the next month of Saturdays with joyous events which will also generate monies for the museum's foundation account that will get folded back into our projects there. May 18<sup>th</sup> is the date for our rail fan excursion to Knoxville and that will leave the museum somewhat short-handed at a time when we need folks to come in around 9:00 a.m. and help set up for the first party. **Please volunteer to be one of these helpers if you are not going to Knoxville with us that day. Thank you!!!**

**Rail Excursion:** Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> is the date for our planned rail excursion and zoo trip to Knoxville. The response to this event by the railroad clubs and the public at large has been about 50% of what we had for our first two similar events last year. We have only managed to fill one bus plus a few folks who are providing their own transportation to this event. We have booked the entire train, the 3 Rivers Rambler, exclusively for our group and paid extra to have it pulled by a vintage steam locomotive. We have also arranged a discount for the group's tickets to the Knoxville Zoo. We had hoped to fill 3 buses as the train has a capacity of 160 people but we have reservations for a little more than 50 people. I am sure we can give many reasons for the disappointing response and low number of reservations, but the important considerations are that we are providing a service for the people in the region, we are promoting the Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum, and we are in the black (barely). Thank you for your support of this Carter Chapter NRHS and RR Museum event.



Piedmont #74 at Jamestown NC 8/16/2012. He hit a Semi truck loaded with limestone sitting on the tracks as he rounding a 70 mph curve.

If you have not visited the Carter RR Museum recently I think you will be happily surprised to see all the progress that has been made on the MEMRR club HO-scale layout. The new freight yard is really taking shape, the control center for the layout has been relocated near the computer stand, and the wiring crew has been working overtime stringing and connecting new electrical wiring and working out the electrical demons that cause shorts and other operating mishaps just when you least expect the. These fellows can always us a helping hand and will welcome you to join them in their tasks. This is a terrific way to learn some new model railroading skills with a truly hands-on approach. Come join in the fun of working alongside of some great guys. Be sure to walk over to the Ken Marsh Gallery while you are at the museum and see what has been happening on the Tweetsie RR Project as well. The background scenery for the Cranberry Mines is looking good and the mountains along the Doe River Gorge are beginning to take on some form thanks to **Duane Swank**. **Gary Woods** has had a great crew of guys helping with the Tweetsie's layout wiring and **Brad Horrell** and **Jesse Kittle** and some other gandy dancers have been installing tortoise switch machines under the narrow gauge tracks.

of the Tweetsie layout. He sponsored not one, but two of these sections for \$1,000 each. Check out his donor plaques on the layout. **Michael L. Dalka** also made a \$1,000 donation to the museum to support our projects and exhibits. None of this would be possible without the efforts you provide as members who volunteer your time to the museum and to your passion for trains and model railroading. We are becoming more and more a destination for the people of the area to come to see model railroading at its best. Please congratulate yourselves for all you do for so many.



There's a Prototype for Everything – Ever wonder how the big guys end their track at the fascia board edge (just a late April Fools Joke).



The Golden state in Davenport Iowa 05-15-1967

As you have been reading, the transition into spring always brings on an explosion of new growth, and that is proving true for our model railroad club and the Carter RR Museum as well. As you become busy with your own responsibilities during the coming weeks, please set aside some volunteer time to help these organizations that you hold membership in to complete their tasks as well. Part of our charter is public service and making our local citizens more aware of railroading and our rich regional railroading history. I know I can count on you to do your part.

We have received a lot of newspaper publicity from each of the three Tri-Cities newspapers in the past month, all with articles featuring the Tweetsie RR Project. That little railroad still lives in the hearts and minds of area citizens and they are showing growing interest in coming to visit the museum to see what we are doing for themselves. This interest has also brought additional sponsorships of sections of the little railroad layout. **Dr. Rann Vaulx** saw the article in the *Kingsport Times-News* written by feature writer, **Marci Gore**, and spent much of one recent Saturday in the museum and discussing each of the 9 long sections



The Golden State in Davenport Iowa 05-15-1967

Hear the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come!

Fred J. Alsop III  
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

## MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS MINUTES OF THE MEETING APRIL 16, 2013

President Fred Alsop called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. in room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU, with 19 members present and three guests.

President Alsop deferred the reading of the Officers' Reports and Business Meeting so special guest Ralph Clark with Mountain Empire Auctions could address the membership about an upcoming Auction at the Appalachian Fair Grounds June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> that will feature a huge collection of Model Trains including 335 lots of HO trains and over 500 locomotives. Mr. Clark and associates also brought a lot of samples for the membership to view. He also informed the membership that anyone wanting to do an advance viewing of the items for sale could call him at 677-3695 or 426-3947. President Alsop volunteered to get with Mr. Clark and work out a time for the club to go as a group.



The Golden State in Davenport Iowa 05-15-1967

Following Mr. Clark's informative presentation, President Alsop called for the reading of the Secretary's report from the March meeting as published in *The Signal Bridge* with a motion being made to accept them by Don Ramey and a second by Dave Finger. The report was accepted. In the absence of Ted Bleck-Doran, Newsletter Editor, President Alsop reminded the membership of Ted's continued need for new information for the newsletter and praised Ted for his excellent work. Duane Swank, Treasurer reported to the membership the balance of the club's checking account as of March. Bob Jones, Web Master, reported to the membership that due to the increasing large size of *The Signal Bridge*, that many of the e-mails were being returned. In the future, Bob said he would post the newsletter on the club's website. Anyone wishing to print a copy of *The Signal Bridge* can download a copy from there.

In the absence of John Carter, Vice-President, President Alsop announced that the May program would be a hands-on clinic given by Bill Langford on scenery tips and techniques. President Alsop thanked the membership for their help on the 26<sup>th</sup> with the visiting Senior Group from Abington which was canceled due to snow. The ETSU Alliance for Continued Learning will be at the Museum April 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were requested for their visit. The Abington Senior Group will also be rescheduling their visit to the Museum on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and again volunteers were requested to come in and run trains for that event. Lastly, President Alsop reported to the membership that the Museum and Club had received a lot of publicity recently including articles in the Kingsport and Bristol newspapers and Amy Lynn of WJHL TV would be at the museum on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to film a segment for Good Morning Tri-Cities focusing on the May 18<sup>th</sup> rail excursion and zoo visit to Knoxville.

'Old Business' President Alsop informed the membership that final details and contest rules for both the upcoming Modeling Contest and Photo Contest was published in the April edition of *The Signal Bridge*. The theme of the Photo Contest will be 'Steam after the Steam Age.' Photos will showcase steam railroading in the period after 1970. President Alsop stated that it was his intention to showcase all entries at Jonesborough Days as well as the Museum. In the absence of Jim Pahr, President Alsop reported to the membership that the first Spring Fling was a success with 24 members attending. Happy Birthday was then sung to Charlene McLeod who celebrated her birthday in grand style by attending the club's business meeting. President Alsop continued with 'Old Business' by reporting that the four new Switch-8's were in and awaiting the Tortoise Switch Machines to be attached before they could be made operational. He also told the membership that Larry Jackson and Bill Hensley, Co-Wiring Coordinators, had relocated the Control Panel and Antenna to beside the computer and reported that the yard was coming along nicely. The Diesel Facility is also being fitted and will soon be completed. President Alsop brought the group up to date on the upcoming Steam Train Ride and Zoo trip being offered by the Carter Chapter of the NHRS, May 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that help was needed to sell tickets for this event and that future publicity in both print and broadcast was planned. Lastly, a motion tabled at the March meeting by John Edwards to place a Transfer Table at the end of the Staging Yard was discussed and again tabled until the May business meeting until information on pricing could be obtained. A motion to continue to table this motion was made by Jim Hoit and seconded by John Edwards with the motion passing.

'New Business': The next Railroad Heritage Days for the museum will be April 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be 'The Circus

Comes to Town'. A brief update was given by President Alsop on information discussed during the March Coordinators meeting and is as follows: Gary Emmert, Librarian, would like an advance notice if anyone is donating boxes of magazines. Currently, he has been putting the magazines in the racks located in front of the main room for giveaway. He has also been filling in gaps with missing issues that the club does not have. It is hoped that a better system for cross referencing books and magazines will soon be put into place. The library has 24 books that doesn't have labels but are in the process of having them prepared. President Alsop said he would speak with Mark Woomer about additional ways to find topics of interest. Jim Pahr is working with Blue Plum and Jonesborough Days to find a suitable location to display the Cope Traveling layout. He expects that the layout will be displayed at the Hands On Museum during Blue Plum and at the Story Telling Center for Jonesborough Days. President Alsop asked the membership for help on getting the Cope Layout spruced up before the events. He also suggested that we look at attaching castors to the legs to make it easier to move. He said he would contact Jim Gorny about doing the work. Don Ramey said he was willing to donate castors if needed. Gary Emmert and

James Gregg are working on the museum's large Z Scale layout and have requested help with the electrical work. The layout is DC not DCC. Concluding New Business, Jim Hoyt, Rip Track Coordinator, informed the membership that presently there are 250 pieces of rolling stock that have been inventoried, weighted and in good rolling condition. Jim reminded the membership that members wishing to leave locomotives or rolling stock on the layout need to pick a color and mark their items accordingly. The notebook is yellow and is located in the desk drawer where the rip track stuff is stored. Currently, there are two dry erase boards; one for the round house and one for operating sessions.

Volunteers for Saturdays' Operating Sessions were then asked for by President Alsop. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:34 P.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in room 312 at Brown Hall, ETSU. Those who want to dine together will meet at 5:00 at ETSU's Market Place cafeteria, 3rd floor, DP Culp University Center.

*Respectively submitted,  
Hobie Hyder, Secretary, MEMRR*

## MESSAGE FOR MEMRR and G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS Members:

The following are events happening in May for your calendar and active support:

- 1) The spring semester at ETSU will end this week and there will be **graduation exercises held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**. We can expect some parking problems at the Carter Railroad Museum. **The ETSU cafeteria, The Market Place, will be closing on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and will not reopen until sometime late in May. This means we will have to select another restaurant for 5 p.m. dining on May 20 & 21<sup>st</sup>. Any suggestions?????????????**
- 2) **Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 to 12:30** we have a **birthday party scheduled**. We will be using room 102 just down the hallway from the museum for the party room. We will need some help around 9:00 a.m. to set it up. I will provide details to several of you on how to do this, but I will need you to volunteer so I may do so. Please RSVP if you can help by email at [fredjalsop3@earthlink.net](mailto:fredjalsop3@earthlink.net). Thanks.
- 3) **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** the Carter Chapter NRHS will take a bus load of guests to Knoxville to ride the 3 Rivers Rambler and visit the Knoxville Zoo. **Alsop will be going to Knoxville with the Carter Chapter NRHS to help host the group and will not be at the RR Museum.**

- 4) **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.** Carter Chapter NRHS business meeting, 312 Brown Hall. Fred Alsop, President presiding.
- 5) **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m.** MEMRR business meeting, 312 Brown Hall. Fred Alsop, President presiding.
- 6) **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 12 to 2:00 p.m.** we have a **birthday party scheduled**. We will be using room 102 just down the hallway from the museum for the party room. We will need some help around 9:00 a.m. to set it up. I will provide details to several of you on how to do this, but I will need you to volunteer so I may do so. Please RSVP if you can help by email at [fredjalsop3@earthlink.net](mailto:fredjalsop3@earthlink.net). Thanks. **Alsop will be on a flight to Tucson, AZ to consult with wildlife artist, Ray Harm, who is collaborating on Fred's book and will not be at the RR Museum.**
- 7) **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Day Event "Here to Stay—Modern American Railroading"** in honor of National Train Day—May 7<sup>th</sup>. (See Alsop's schedule above).
- 8) **May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Blue Plum Festival, Johnson City.** Jim Pahr is will act as coordinator and is securing a display site for the Cope Traveling Layout in a downtown location. We will need to bring in our trailer from **Dan McLeod's back yard** for transport and someone will need to volunteer to pull it. The **Cope Layout** needs some cosmetic work to make it more presentable to the viewing public that includes some

sprucing up and some additional details to the town and housing elements. Signage and brochures need to be produced to advertise the club/ NRHS chapter and the RR Museum. We will need volunteers to man the little layout during the festival. Please let Jim know who will be helping do all of the above. **Alsop will be returning to Johnson City from Arizona on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, so this event will have to be staged by our club/chapter without him.**

Fellow members, as you will see by reading the above we have a lot of commitments for the month of May and we are already a week into the month. We have done all of these things before and we can do them again if we get enough volunteers to pitch in and help. I regret that I am not retired and am still working as a full-time biologist some times, and the end of this month is one of those times. I have professional commitments that I have to undertake and you are seeing some of my schedule in the boldface type above. However, I know you can get these things done without me being here and I know you will do so. **Dr. Stacey Wild** will get the helium-filled balloons for the two birthday parties and help with the party room setup. **Amanda** and **Michelle** will help with the parties and host the children and their parents, but you will have to help them set up the party room and take it down. I will work with **Jim Pahr**, **Amanda Blackburn**, **Michelle Kelly** and some of you who are present at the museum this Thursday night so we have a plan for getting these things accomplished. I will be at the

business meetings on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> so we can discuss organizing the events that will occur after those dates together.

#### **Fred Alsop's calendar for May:**

1. May 11<sup>th</sup>, leading the 29 Annual Birding Day in Bryson City, NC
2. May 12-17, conducting bird i.d. training workshops for South Carolina DNR and USDA Forest Service on the Coastal Plain of South Carolina between Columbia and Charlestown.
3. May 18, helping host the Carter Chapter NRHS rail excursion and zoo trip to Knoxville, TN
4. May 20, preside over the Carter Chapter NRHS business meeting
5. May 21, preside over the MEMRR club business meeting
6. May 24, travel to Nashville and take plane to Tucson, AZ the next day to work with Ray Harm on *The Birds of Tennessee* state bird book project. Return to Nashville June 1<sup>st</sup>, to Johnson City, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thanks for your continued support and let's take these opportunities to take our hobby of model railroading to the visitors who continue to come to the Carter Railroad Museum and to the public in the Tri-Cities area.

Regards,  
Fred

## Communication from Fred Alsop:

Fellow members of the G. L. Carter Chapter NRHS and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders:

As you are aware, the Carter Chapter NRHS, in conjunction with the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum, is providing a rail excursion to Knoxville on Saturday, 18 May, to ride behind a steam locomotive of the 3 Rivers Rambler on a train that will be exclusively contracted only for our group.

Additionally, we will be visiting the Knoxville Zoo for the afternoon. The trip is currently under booked. We have 5 seats still available on the Greene Coach Lines bus that will transport us to and from ETSU to Knoxville that we need to fill. Each of you has received multiple announcements regarding this rail fan trip, even to the extent of receiving registration forms via email. Participation on these club & museum sponsored trips provides a great trip for our participants, acts as a good membership recruiting tool, provides a great outreach program to the surrounding community and is a great advertisement for our clubs, the museum and railroading in general.

We need your help. If you act in the next week by contacting Duane Swank and letting him know you are

going to take the trip with us and get your money and completed registration forms to him, you still have time to join us. The excursion flyer, ticket form, and liability waiver are all attached to this email message.

We need your support, and in turn, you and your family will enjoy a terrific trip and the company of 50 other folks that are having a great railroading adventure as well. I hope to see you on the bus on the 18<sup>th</sup>!

Regards,

Fred J. Alsop III  
President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS  
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders  
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU



## MASTER MODELER STILL AT IT WAYNE WESOLOWSKI



Wayne Wesolowski lived in the Chicago area before moving to Tucson, Arizona. During the 70s and 80s he was involved with local NMRA activities. Many of us recall his clinics on various aspects of scratchbuilding and weathering at Regional and National conventions, plus how-to articles in the model press. He is perhaps best known for his scratchbuilt large-scale model of the Lincoln funeral train, now on permanent display at the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, IL (see

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/news/train.htm>).

And, like so many of us, Wayne is also a fan of theatre pipe organs.

It's great to know that Wayne keeps himself busy. I thought I would share his email.



## You Might Be A Railroader Submission from posting by Gill Reed

- If you walk into Wal-Mart, and ask the door greeter "Where can I find 2 car lengths of garden hose?"
- If you request three step protection from your wife before doing the deed.
- If you audibly call all traffic signals out as you, pass them in your car
- If you shake your hedges before you trim them, for fear of cutting up a trainmaster and ruining your trimmers.
- If you threaten your wife with "Shut the hell up or I'm calling my local chairman".
- If you ask the cop after he pulls you over "You're not going to pull my tapes, are ya?"
- If you have more years in seniority than your supervisor has been on this planet.
- If you wake up screaming, and then realize, you've never even fallen asleep!
- If your daily vernacular includes the term "Hump channel" and you're not talking about playboy TV.
- If the term hotbox no longer excites you.

- If you won't take a dump at a fancy restaurant because you can't find the second unit.
- If your glad to be called on an out of town job, because that means you get at least 8 hours away from your spouse and her honey-do list.
- If you are required by rule to take three times longer than necessary to perform a simple task, but you don't mind because you'll be on the money in 45 minutes anyway!
- If you are reading this list, and it all makes sense.

## Main Line Union Pacific RR Photos From West, TX After Major Blast Nearby

The Texas State Railroad is sharing this photo tonight of the old Missouri-Kansas-Texas (now Union Pacific) main line at West, Texas which runs right by the fertilizer plant that blew up the other night. Get a look at this! The force of the explosion actually lifted one rail and shoved it all the way up against the other rail.

This looks like it's welded rail to me. Even the far rail actually looks bent near the top of the photo. The near rail

(right side) looks to have been tiled up, pulling the spikes out of the tie plates on the side nearest the explosion.

A lot of the spikes are still in the ties and tie plates on the farther side of the near rail, although the rail was lifted up and moved over them. Now that had to be an incredible amount of explosive force!! The Texas State Railroad credits the photo to a person named Ralph Dikes.



His attendance at the 10th Anniversary of Rock's shutdown in El Reno on March 31, 1990 was a highlight of the event. He brought several blow ups of his Rock Island steam shots for display that day and kindly gave me permission to take several pictures of his work to include in my Rock Island slide show.

Three years following this event, Preston passed away at the age of 87. I am proud to have visited him in his last years in his home in Edmond, OK. I will never forget that visit as Preston had set up a number of his pictures in the living room along with his ole heavy box Graflex camera....only then did that I fully appreciate this man's immense talent and effort in bringing to film his magnificent and historical work for generations to come.

Mr. George's priceless collection of some 1700 photos has been given over by his family to the Oklahoma History Center.



Eastbound Mikado 2711 (2-8-2) at from Hilltop, Okla., at the top of the Shawnee Hills between Calvin and Stuart with 47 cars on Dec 13, 1948



Eastbound Consolidation Double Header #'s 1724 (2-8-0 Consolidation) and 2665 (Mikado 2-8-2) lead an eastbound freight through Seminole, Ok., oilfield on the Choctaw line with 75 cars at 30 mph on Sep 2, 1946

## ROCK ISLAND STEAM Through the Lens of Preston George

Preston George was Oklahoma's greatest rail photographer who started taking pictures of the steam era in late 1930's and ended when steam was gradually replaced by diesel. Preston mostly shot in the State of Oklahoma as he thought the Sooner State had as great a variety of landscapes as did the other states.

His work is nationally recognized and acclaimed and Appears in numerous publications. I have a June, 1980 Trains Magazine which has a featured pictorial of Preston's work on pages 31-41.





RI 2708 and 2663 Mikados (2-8-2) double heads a freight leaving Haileyville, Ok., eastbound with a 44 car freight.



RI 4044, a 4-8-2 Mountain type has the Memphis-Californian at top speed on the Choctaw Route

the recent discovery of barbed wire found on safety appliances of a multilevel car.

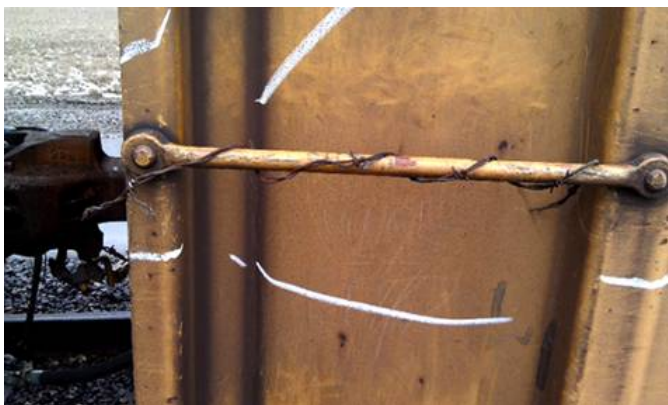
This photograph was taken in the Quebec City, Quebec, area on March 26. "Please distribute this information to coworkers, contractors, customers and all personnel who deal with these types of cars," said James P. Grady, AAR assistant vice president for technical services.

## ADDING COLOR TO THE TWEETSIE USING WOODLAND SCENIC'S SCENERY STAINS



The creative process is moving right along on the Tweetsie layout. Puff-ball trees are being planted by the hundreds. Wiring is being installed with 100's of feet of 12 gauge bus-wire being strung. Lately however, Fred was faced with the problem of what to do with masses of white plaster rock walls that have sprung up. Solution: settle in and stain those mountain outcrops.

## AAR SAFETY ALERT A NEW HAZARD DISCOVERED



AAR issues rail safety alert April 12, 2013 The Association of American Railroads has issued a safety alert for all railroads in North America. The safety alert is to advise of



... and settle it he did!



Fred starts out with a selection of Woodland Scenic stains including Earth and Green Undercoat, Stone Gray, Slate Gray, Burnt Umber, Black, and Yellow Ocher. These are diluted 1 part stain : 10 parts water.



Woodland Scenics stains are all water based acrylics but the pigments are finer than tube or bottled acrylics, making the applications more opaque. The Woodland Scenics stain are 3-4 times more expensive but the effects are more subtle and rewarding due to the finer pigments they use.



The dilute stain solution is applied with just a hint of color. Fred gradually builds up color density with repeated applications until the desired hue is achieved. He applies the lighter colors first starting with Yellow Ocher.



A 1 inch to 1.5 inch flat natural hair brush is used to work the washes into the crack and crevices features of the rock castings.





Darker colors like Burnt Umber are added also in multiple applications. It is with these applications that the details of the rock formations begin to “pop”.



On closer inspection the final results stand up as museum quality and are highly realistic. And thanks Fred for sharing this wonderful scenery trick.

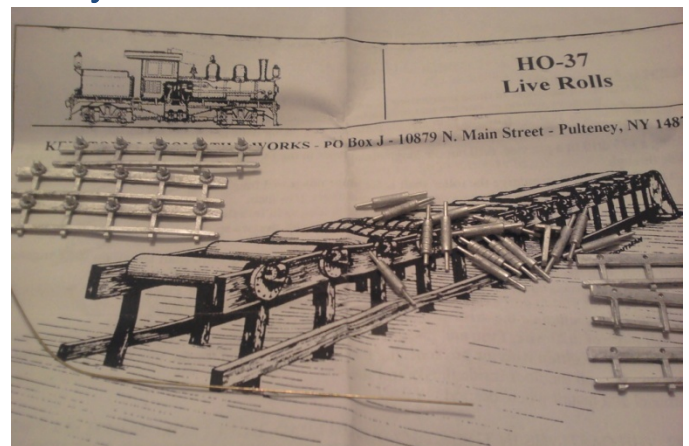


Here is a distant view of the mountain side as the Tweetsie leave Cranberry. The stained rock formations can be sealed with a dilute coat of Woodland Scenic’s Scenery Cement or good ol’ Elmer’s White Glue. Once set Black washes can be used to accent shadowed areas. Again these washes need to be very dilute as the darker hues tend to build faster.

## BUILDING A SAW MILL

### Part 3:

### Keystone Locomotive Works Live Rollers



A live roll system in a mill is used to convey the sawed boards from one processing stage to the next. From the bandsaw, they go via a live roll system to the edger, then back on the live roll system to the planer, then to the trimmer, and finally to the stacker. One nice automation in saw mill was the utilization of live rollers to move slabs and finished lumber through the milling process. They worked much like a conveyor rack

used to off load trucks and move freight through a warehouse. Live rollers were both powered and unpowered. Keystone Locomotive Works has produced a finely detailed live roller model in the saw mill kit series. It comes with the following parts:

- 3 geared side frames
- 3 non-geared side frames
- Ribbed rollers
- Smooth rollers
- Wire drive shaft
- Control station

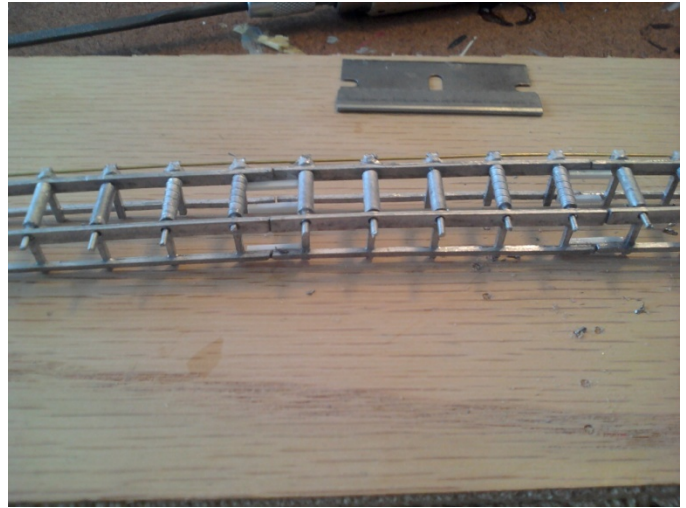


The first step was to trim or file any flashing left from the molding process. The pieces were remarkable free of any flashing but there were some minor mold seal lines that needed a little touch up. I then assembled the long side pieces. I felt that the joints needed some stiffening so I added plastic shims as seen in the above photo.

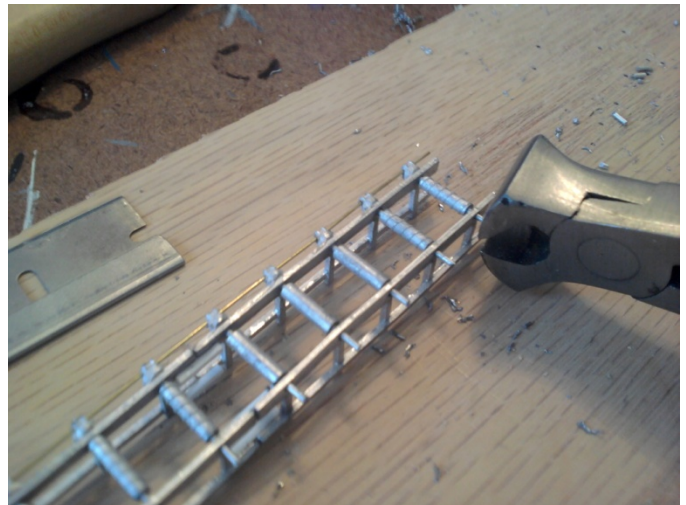


I then took a .76 drill and bored out the gear boxes to run the drive shaft. Care should be taken to avoid damaging the gear box castings. There were small indentations in the castings to facilitate seating the drill bit when starting a

hole. I also drilled out the bearing holes on the side frames so they would accept the roller shafts.  
NOTE: Again care must be taken not to drill too deep and punch through the gearbox casting.



I cut the shafts on one side of each roller so that the rollers would nest in the bearing holes on the inside of the gear box equipped side frames.



The drive shaft wire was threaded through the hole in the gear boxes and the control station. Then the rollers received a drop of ACC in each of the bearing holes on the geared side frames. Once the ACC set the rollers were squared and threaded through the bearing holes in the non-geared side frames. A little touch up with the file and the live rollers were ready for paint.



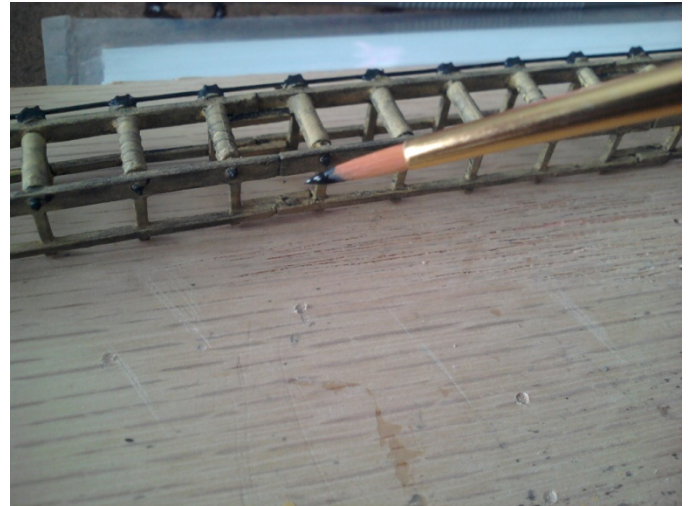
The live rollers first received a coat of Yellow Ocher to simulate wooden construction. The rollers and frames were made from wood to protect the slabs and finished lumber from damage metal rollers would have caused.



The rollers then received a wash of dilute raw umber and black to simulate age, grime and use.



The drive shaft and gear boxes received attention; first the a mix of flat black and metallic silver (I like the slight metallic sheen the mix creates simulating old metal parts that have been seen in use).



I then applied a dry brush hint of rust along the exposed drive shaft and on the roller shafts that peek out from the non-gear side frame.



Finally, a light dry brushed application of Siena was used to highlight the rollers. These would be relatively clean and free of dirt from constant use.

Next month we will describe the fabrication of the cutoff table and in July we will talk about the various saws (band, circular and rocker types).

We will also feature the designing and building of the mill structure itself in future issues of *the Signal Bridge*.

I hope this series will inspire some of you to depict a mill on your home layouts in the future.

### A Not So Golden 50<sup>th</sup> Commentary by Eric Bronsky

### THE GREAT ESCAPE LOCOMOTIVE MAKES A BREAK FOR FREEDOM



It was shortly after 4 am on a bitterly cold January 21, 1963 when the North Shore Line passed into history.

Since then, we've put men on the moon, revolutionized information technology, found cures for diseases once deemed incurable, and achieved countless other wonderful things.

Also since then, our daily lives have become ever more complex. The political structure, economies, and ecology of many parts of the world are eroding, and our battles against evil only seem to escalate.

We cannot go backwards in time to what some of us may perceive as a simpler, quieter, or more trouble-free era. But we can certainly put things in perspective by studying our heritage, and by learning from our past successes and mistakes.

Others who once rode on or worked for the North Shore Line have documented what made this railroad so special, why it went out of business, and why it paradoxically continues to be missed and revered some 50 years later. I can add little else other than to affirm that there was more to this charismatic company than its trains and tracks. It once intertwined with and helped to define our lifestyle, and we are the poorer for its loss.

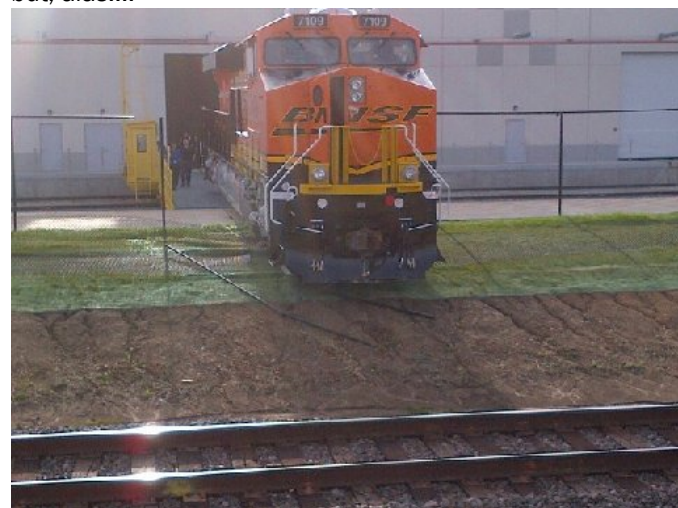
Eric Bronsky  
Founder, Shore Line Interurban Historical Society



This BRAND NEW GE locomotive built at the BRAND NEW GE plant in North Fort Worth, COULDN'T WAIT to get out on the track and show its stuff....



but, alas....



Even Texas locomotives NEED track. It almost made it....that's BNSF's main line between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City.....TEXAS:

Never have SO MANY been SO PROUD of SO LITTLE.