

**Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club &
George L Carter Chapter of NRHS Newsletter**

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

AND

THE COAL ROAD

Volume 28 – Issue 10 October 2021

Cover photograph of Norfolk & Western 611 by Paul Haynes

Lose Track of Time!

Inside this issue:

Club News	6-11, 17-22
President's Msg	2-5
Lose Track of Time	1
Meeting Minutes	None
Heritage Days	12-16
Club Information	23



Photo and article contributed by Logan Heaton

Even on the ET&WNC accidents did happen. Here we see ET&WNC #207 ((now Southern #630)) being looked over by her crew after being put on the ground somewhere between Elizabethton and Johnson City during a move with some freight cars. Seems could be on the edge of the Johnson City yard but not certain.

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar



It has been an unusually warm October, but the touch of Jack Frost is in the air and the autumn colors are beginning to paint the leaves of the trees with reds, oranges, and yellows. The pandemic rendered by COVID-19 is still with us, but its hold is beginning to weaken as more and more of our fellow citizens become fully vaccinated. Now with the vaccine booster shots becoming available I hope all our members are becoming fulling protected by getting this free, life-saving vaccine. We have a great membership, and we don't want to lose anyone of our members, or their family members, to this virus. Please get your shot if you have not already done so to protect yourself and to protect others. Enjoy the fall and the upcoming holidays in a healthy, safe condition as we look forward to a beautiful fall and a winter that is being predicted to be a little harsher than normal. Great weather for model railroading and getting into those indoor projects we have been putting aside all summer long.

There are lots of events happening in the coming months as we close out 2021 as you will see in the text below. If you haven't been to the Carter Railroad Museum in a while you need to come in on a Thursday evening or when we are open to the public on Saturdays and see all the changes that your fellow members have been making on all the layouts.

Monthly Meetings: The COVID-19 virus shut down the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum for several months in 2020 and also cancelled all of our in-person club/chapter meetings, and all of our planned social events as well as our museum and Carter Chapter NRHS co-hosted rail excursions. But as soon as it was safe to do so we reopened the railroad museum to our members, and later to the public in August of 2020. We also resumed our monthly meetings initially as joint meetings with both the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS using zoom meeting technology so we could be in the safety and comfort of our homes and still carry out the necessary functions of both of our organizations. For the past few months we have been holding separate monthly business meetings in a hybrid manner with simultaneous in-person and zoom meeting formats that allow members to choose between meeting in-person in a meeting room on the campus of East Tennessee State University or to continue to use the zoom technology to attend these meeting from off campus. This attempt to continue our meetings as scheduled monthly has had the positive effect of letting us conduct the business of our organizations, but with a steep falloff in attendance. Some members who were regular in attendance at each monthly meeting pre-COVID are no longer attending our meetings either in-person or via zoom. This is not a healthy situation for either club as these monthly meetings are important vehicles for conducting the important business that each organization needs to handle with their voices on motions, activities, problems and concerns, etc., that are better attended to when we have a quorum of members engaged in every decision. Your officers continue to do all that is required of them, and often times more, to keep each club functioning as their duties require them to do, but we all need your help, your support, and your voice at our monthly business meetings. Please make every effort to put these scheduled meetings back on your calendar and attend as many of them as you can. We depend on your voice to help us make each organization as efficient and responsible as possible. Please do your part and attend the meetings. Our next meeting for the Carter Chapter NRHS will be November 15, 6:30 p.m. in ETSU's Brown Hall, room 131. The November meeting for the MEMRR is on November 16, 6:30 p.m. in ETSU's Brown Hall, room 223. **We hope to see you at the November meeting!**

(continued on page 3)

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar

(continued from page 2)

Officer Elections: November is the month when we elect our officers for the coming year in both the Mountain Empire Model Railroader club and the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS. These elections are important because you are entrusting your elected officers to be responsible for the open communication and the welfare of each of these organizations for the coming year. Your officers organize and conduct our meetings, plan and execute our social events and rail excursions, collect and protect your dues, edit and publish your monthly newsletter, trouble-shoot problems and concerns as they arise, and much, much more. They assume the responsibility for keeping the organizations organized. We owe them a lot of gratitude for all the extra work they do on a regular weekly basis to keep us viable in all ways.

We need 2-3 members in each club to act as a nominating committee to provide us with a slate of offices for consideration at our November meetings. Hopefully, most, if not all, of our current officers will be willing to serve again in their positions for another year, but any member in good standing who desires to be considered as a candidate for any club/chapter position is welcome to make your willingness to serve as an officer known and to be placed on a ballot for election. Ballots with candidates for all elected positions will be circulated via email to all active members in November and the results of the elections for both clubs will be announced ASAP following the voting deadline.

My thanks to all of our current officers, both elected and appointed, in the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS. You have been an outstanding group of officers to work with and each of you have served our organizations well with you due diligence and the faithful execution of your duties this year. Thank you for a job well done in a year when almost nothing has been "normal".

Rail & Sail Excursion: Our first rail excursion since October 2019 because of COVID is a sell-out!! We have filled three (3) 56-passenger buses for the trip to Knoxville on October 30th wit 168 participants who are eager to ride a train and have a luncheon cruise on the Tennessee River. We had to turn down applicants for the trip because we had filled all of the available spaces on the train and the boat, the paddle-wheel ship, *The Star of Knoxville*. A BIG THANK YOU!! to all our members who worked so hard to make this possible and to make it successful. A special thanks to *Carolyn Gregg* who has handled all the correspondence with our participants and assembled the logs for each bus, and to *John Dodge* who made all the reservations for the train and the boat. I helped with bus reservations through the university and with some television appearances on WJHL and WCYB. It has been a most successful team effort.

In January we will plan our 2022 rail excursion schedule with several excursions taking place over the year. These are inexpensive rail adventures that are family oriented. Almost all of them are day trips with early morning departures on modern comfortable buses furnished by Premier Transportation. If you have never come along on one of these with us, please plan to do so in 2022. If you have traveled with us before, plan to make another trip with us in 2022 and tell all your friends about it to help us fill our buses each time. All profits from these co-sponsored excursions are split between the Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum. The Carter Chapter uses some of its funds to send a high school student (usually one of our young members) to the National NRHS RailCamp in Dover, Delaware in June providing a great week-long experience for them. The Carter RR Museum uses its funding for many needs of the museum. Your expenses for the excursion go right back into our NRHS chapter and the museum once our vendors' bills are paid. **Please plan to join us on an exciting rail excursion in 2022.**

(continued on page 4)

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar

(continued from page 3)

Publicity; Local, Regional, and International: Much of the success of any organization depends on folks knowing about it, what it offers and where it is located. Publicity is the sword that many organizations either thrive on because of its positive effect on them or die on because they were just not effective in getting the word out about their very existence. We are blessed to have the professional assistance of several people who work hard to make sure the MEMRR, the Carter Chapter NRHS, and the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum are well known through their outstanding efforts. *Cathy Smith*, our newsletter editor, does a great job every month with the editing and assembling of our newsletter that brings us timely news of our organizations. Its archiving on the MEMRR.org website by *Bill Smith*, as one of our webmasters, makes sure our webpage is up-to-date and functioning and that it carries not only the newsletters, but a list of current and coming events. *Logan Heaton* makes sure we have a current presence on FaceBook and he also contributes a lot of timely photos to the newsletter of the modeling happenings that are taking place in the railroad museum. *Geoff Stunkard* drafts all of the publicity for each monthly Heritage Day event. For the past 4 years he has created each annual museum calendar setting up each month with events and a railroad photo. In addition to selling these calendars to members and the public, we send each potential vendor for the Annual Big Train Show a calendar along with their vendor application forms to promote the train show. For the past 8 years, Geoff has written the text, submitted the photos taken by him and other members, to the national/international publisher, White River Productions, for the articles that have been featured in the *HOn3 Annual* or our ET&WNC RR layout. *Roger Teinert*, *Gary Emmert* and other members have gone to countless train shows promoting our Annual BIG Train Show and their efforts have been instrumental in making it become one of the largest train shows in the southeast. We are on the map because of the great publicity our members continue to provide for all of our events and for us. Thank you everyone for the outstanding work you do for the clubs and the museum.

New Publications: The 2021 Edition of the *HOn3 Annual* is coming off of the presses at White River Productions and I have 50 copies ordered for the Carter Railroad Museum for our members. Our ET&WNC RR Layout is featured with 8 pages on the coal, water, and sand facilities that were necessary to keep the little steam locomotives of the "Tweetsie" railroad running. Copies will be sale price discounted for our members (the magazine will be sold to the public at the recommended retail price), so get you personal copy early as they often sell out.

2022 Carter Railroad Museum Calendar is at the printers as I write this. This, our 4th annual calendar, is in my opinion, the best one we have produced yet. It contains all of our meeting dates for the coming year, and all of the Heritage Day events, as well as lots of other information. It will be discounted to members, and it makes a nice holiday gift for families and friends. Be sure to get your copy at the museum when it becomes available.

(continued on page 5)

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar

(continued from page 4)

Museum Happening:

Annual Big Train Show planning for June 2022 is well underway with monthly meetings. Please contact Roger Teinert, the train show coordinator, if you would like to help and you are welcome to attend the monthly meetings the third Monday of each month at 5:30. Meeting locations will be announced via email. This is a big, important event and we always need lots of help with it. Please join in.

October 30th Heritage Day event is focused on Southeast Railroads. Bring your locomotives and consists for this region and run and display them on the museum layouts.

BIG BOOK SALE is still in full swing. These are railroad hardbound books from all across the nation that are library duplicates. We are selling them to members and the public to make room for other volumes on our library shelves. This sale will close very soon, but we still have a great selection of books for you to choose from. See *Dean Small* or *Gary Emmert* to browse our available selection and add them to your railroad library.

Layouts continue to be improved with lots of work going on the MEMRR HO-scale layout, the railroad museum's N-Scale and "Tweetsie" layouts. You are always welcome to come and lend a hand and to add your expertise to these club and museum projects. Model railroads are never finished and we would really like your assistance with working on ours.

Lots of good things are happening in the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. Please come and be an active part of them. Workdays on Thursday afternoons and evenings. Open to the public on Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. Museum available to active members 24/7.

Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destination yet to come.

Fred J. Alsop III

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

Club News

MEMRR Layout Update – Elk Park: Article and Photographs by Logan Heaton

The first bit of the track work has been started up on the logging loop above the northeast tunnel. The passing siding behind the mountain has been put in along with the switches being mounted to the tortoise machines to control the switches. The track then goes through the mountain cut and curves past where the camp will soon be. Although not a lot of track work it is a great start getting the area ready to have trains rolling once more on the loop. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Club News

New Members for October 2021!

Please make our new members feel welcome!

No new members this month!

We would love to know more about you!

If you would like to share your story with fellow club members in a future newsletter, please send via email to our editor at cathysmithmemrr@yahoo.com.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton



Some great headway has been made on Elk Park with the completion of not just one but two more shops to the main street row. The new buildings include the A.F. Brinkley Barbershop which also shares a building with the United States Post Office and the other building sitting next door is the J.R. McLineback Hardware Store. Both buildings have been completely assembled and weathered by Dr. Fred Alsop and once completed were added to the module helping bring the area that much closer to completion. Stay tuned for more updates!!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update Elk Park Double Store: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton



Progress on the next building for Elk Park is well underway with the Double Store, as it is being called, making some quick progress. The majority of the assembly and weathering for the main building has been completed as Dr. Alsop finishes up on the metal roofing. Once that is completed the roof is fully assembled all that will be left is to weather it and fit it to the rest of the building. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update Elk Park Store Front: Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

The main building of the double shop has been completed!! After weathering the roof and adding the chimneys where some birds have come to roost and look over the town the pieces were then fully assembled and then placed on the layout between one of the store fronts and the post office. Though this main piece is done there is still more to add to this structure which we will be showing very soon so stay tuned for more!!



Heritage Days!

The Appalachian Way, Movers in the Mountains: – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

This was a great celebration for the Appalachian Way, Movers in the Mountains as we saw railroads from both past and present all over these beautiful mountains and we are happy to showcase some of the scenes during the event. Enjoy!!



(continued on page 12)

Heritage Days!

The Appalachian Way, Movers in the Mountains: – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

(continued from page 11)



(continued on page 13)

Heritage Days!

The Appalachian Way, Movers in the Mountains: – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton



(continued from page 12)



(continued on page 14)

Heritage Days!

The Appalachian Way, Movers in the Mountains: – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

(continued from page 13)



(continued on page 15)

Heritage Days!

The Appalachian Way, Movers in the Mountains: – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

(continued from page 15)



The 2020 Hon3 Annual **and** **2021 All Aboard Calendars** **are Still Available !**

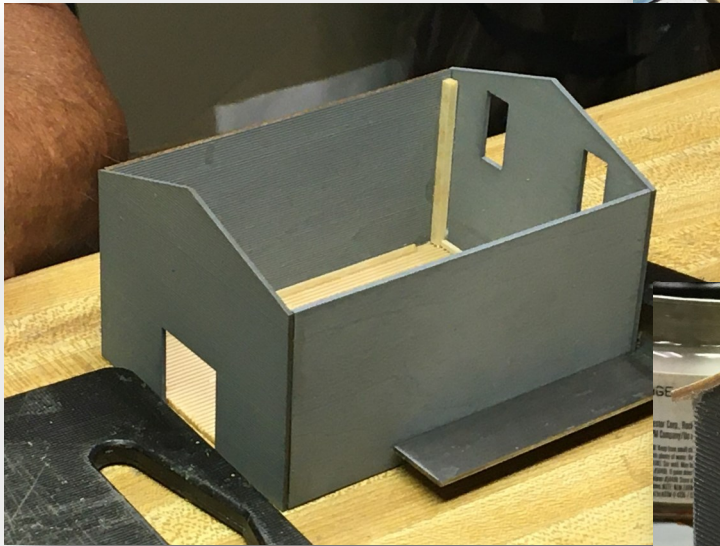
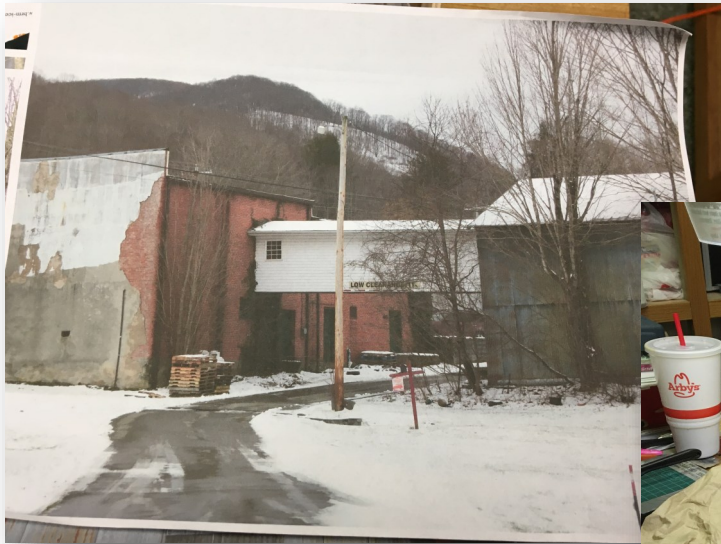
Our beautiful *All Aboard 2021* calendars remain available. Get yours soon so that your discounted price gets its full benefit of all 12 months of events and reminders. Remember too, that we have a limited supply of the recent *2020 Hon3 Annual* published by White River Productions. This issue bears a color-illustrated 8-page feature of our ET&WNC RR layout. This marks the 7th consecutive year our Tweetsie layout has been featured in this collector's magazine; an outstanding accomplishment and a tribute to the quality of work to be found throughout our railroad museum. Be sure to get your souvenir copy while we still have some in stock. A few editions for the previous year's *Hon3 Annual* remain available at our sales table.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update - Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

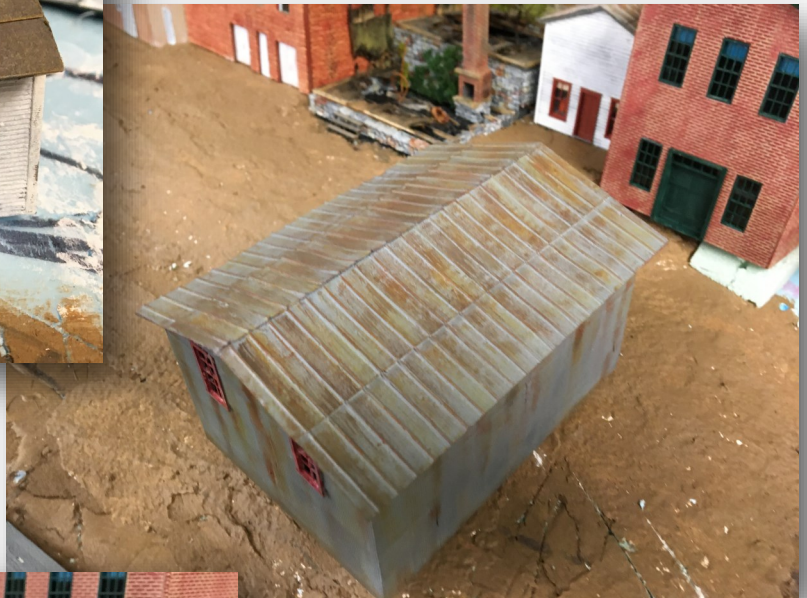
Elk Park continues to grow and develop on the layout including this most recent addition. Many may have noticed in our previous update that the double store was just the first part of the overall structure. The building even to this day also had a large metal storage building which is connected by an overhead bridge that goes over the road making it easier and safer to move items back and forth between the buildings making it a unique sight to see in town. Currently Dr. Alsop is finishing up on the bridge while also putting the walls up on the storage building which once that is done will be covered with metal and weathered. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update - Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

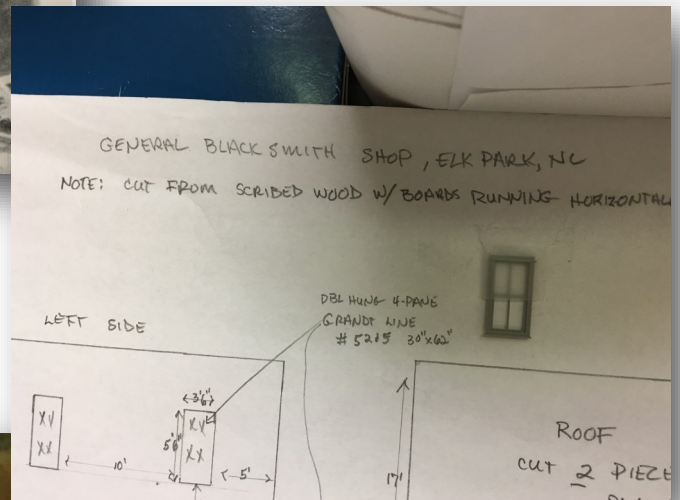
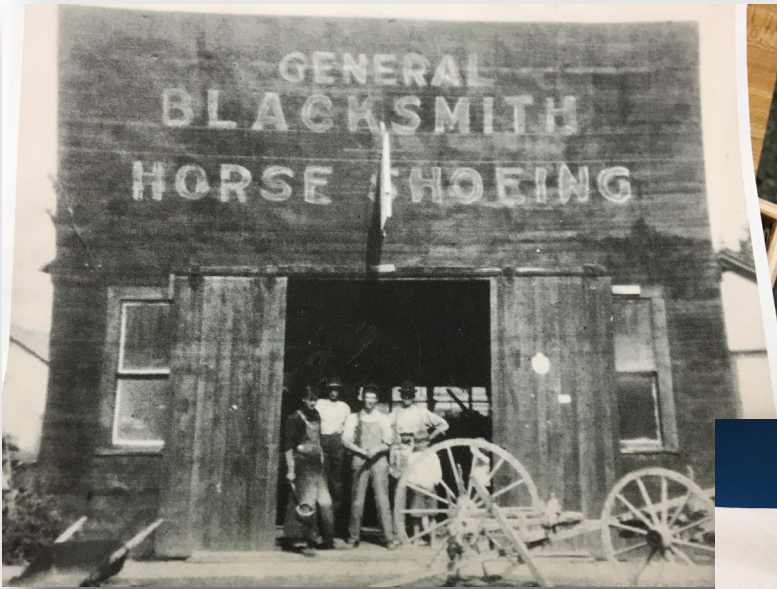
The two additional buildings for the double store have been completed and ready for positioning. After completing the roofing on the two buildings with tarpaper being placed over the bridge section and metal roofing for the storage building the two buildings have now been weathered and placed out on the layout. For now the structures remain unattached from the shop so some landscaping can be done and set up some supports to where the building and bridge will sit right with the main shop. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update - Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

While waiting on the area to finish to complete the full assembly on the Double Store the next building for Elk Park is currently underway. The next building on the workbench will be the General Blacksmith Shop which was cut out earlier at our laser cutter under the watchful eyes of Ben Merritt. With the building now cut to the measurements Dr. Fred Alsop has moved the pieces over to the paint both to primer the pieces before starting on assembly. Stay tuned for more updates!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update - Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Steady progress has been made with the General Blacksmith Store. After the walls were primed the old wood layer is applied to the base along with some weathering and lettering applied to the walls. Some windows have also been installed already and the doors have been cut to mount when the building begins on final assembly. Stay tuned for more updates!!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update - Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Work continues on the General Blacksmith Shop as Dr. Fred Alsop has now finished supporting the walls and now beginning the assembly process. It doesn't take long to get the walls up and glued in together waiting to dry. While the walls settle the floor is also cut out for installation. After sanding down the edges and some final cuts the floor is put in fitting snug between the walls perfectly. The next step while the walls and floor settle will begin assembly on the roof getting it ready for installation on the rest of the structure. Stay tuned for more updates!!



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update - Elk Park : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Progress continues on the Blacksmith Shop as Dr. Alsop has completed assembly of the roof for the building. After the roof was put together metal roofing was put on to match the original. When the roofing is set it will then be weathered and rusted giving a worn out look to the old building. Once the structure is completed, an interior is also in the works, and will be placed once it is ready. Stay tuned for more updates!!



**Mountain Empire Model
Railroaders Club**

Location:



George L. Carter Railroad Museum
East Tennessee State University

Business Meetings

Held monthly on the
3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm.

*

Weekly Work Nights

Thursdays from 4pm until ?

MEMRR Club Officers

- **Club President & Director of George L Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU:** Fred Alsop
alsopf@mail.etsu.edu
- **Vice President:** John Carter
carterjohn92@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Gary Emmert
jbox1015@comcast.net
- **Secretary:** Mike Tarter
miketarter06@gmail.com
- **Webmasters:**
Logan Heaton
Ben Merritt
Bill Smith
memrrwebmaster@gmail.com
- **Newsletter Editor:**
Cathy Smith

George L. Carter

Chapter NRHS Officers:

- **President:** Dr. Fred J. Alsop
- **Vice Pres:** Roger Teinert
- **Secretary:** Mike Tarter
- **Treasurer:** John W. Dodge,
econguy2000@hotmail.com
- **Historian:** Carolyn Greg
- **National Representative to the NRHS:** Charlotte Pahr

George L Carter Railroad Museum and MEMMR

The many colorful multiple railroads of the Midwest are featured at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum, located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University. The region encompassing Chicago, Detroit, Louisville, Milwaukee and St. Louis was the true epicenter of American commerce between east and west during the 20th century. Literally dozens of railroads large and small provided service throughout Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and the upper midwestern states, all service as links to the chain.

Between passenger and freight operations, the railroad were crucially important in the era before widespread air travel and interstate highways. This was especially true during the 1st & 2nd World Wars. Whether it was perishables like produce and livestock or raw commodities such as coal and ore, everything from store goods to Studebakers came from this region. Since so many models of these trains remain popular, icons of streamlining and strength, it is planned to have excellent Midwestern representations in operation by volunteers on the museum's 24x44 foot HO scale layout. The Carter Railroad Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and includes model railroad layouts, a special child's activity room, and ongoing programs. There is no admission fee but donations are welcome for its upkeep. The museum is also seeking artifacts for display, including the newest addition dedicated to the long-defunct, but well-remembered 'Tweetsie' line, the East

In addition to the displays, there is also a growing research library, and an oral history archive being established as part of the museum's programs. Info can be found online at '<http://etsu.edu/railroad/>' or '<http://johnsonsdspot.com/>' or '<http://www.stateoffranklin.net/johnsons/glcarter/cartermuseum.html>'

Members of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) club coordinate the exhibits. Visit 'www.memrr.org' to learn more about MEMRR, or visit '<http://glcarternrhs.com/>' to learn more about Carter Chapter, which helps demonstrate and maintain the model layouts, museum exhibits and other projects.

Membership opportunities are available to adults, and include special benefits and model railroading enjoyment.

The museum can be identified by a flashing railroad crossing signal at the back entrance to the Campus Center Building. Visitors should enter ETSU's campus from State of Franklin Road (at green light) onto Jack Vest Drive and continue east to North Dossett Drive (then left) to John Roberts Bell Drive at end, then right then left on Ross Drive(176) to end, adjacent to the flashing RR crossing sign.

**For more information about Heritage Day,
contact Fred Alsop at 423-439-6858 or alsopf@mail.etsu.edu.*

**For disability accommodations, call the
ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346*