

PENNYRAIL

May 2011

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 5



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
May 23, 2011, 7:00 pm
At the former L&N Depot
Hopkinsville, KY**

**Program and Refreshments
Hosted by our
Hopkinsville Members**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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Ricky Bivins

Vice President
Steve Miller

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Wally Watts

National Director
Wallace Henderson

Director at Large
Danny Koeber

**Please send your
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“PENNYRAIL” is the
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Headlines!

Floods Hit CN Main

GE Opening New Texas Plant

Charolais Coal Switchers Cut

Ricky's Replies

President, Ricky Bivins

Hello Everyone. April Showers will Drown May Flowers...WHAT. That is not how the little ditty goes but it seems to be the case. Those same "showers" have changed a lot of travel plans of late. Some of those plans were in place for our very own members. The Rare Mileage Trips over the Illinois Central i.e. Canadian National via Paducah KY and to Princeton KY across the new Tennessee River Bridge at Kentucky Dam being one of them. Many freight trains are being diverted as well. I have seen a lot of Tri-level Auto-rack cars on the Henderson Subdivision at Mortons Gap KY. These normally run on the Texas Line between Henderson KY and Louisville KY. Not to mention some BNSF traffic. But fear not, the rains will abate, rivers will subside and rail traffic will resume.

The April meeting was very informative if you missed it. There is a lot going on at the National level of our organization. Many changes have taken place and more to come. Wallace Henderson reported many of the changes are being brought on by simple economics. The NRHS national level officers and representatives have been faced with rising cost of travel to attend the Spring and Fall board meeting and the National Convention. If left un-addressed, these rising cost will undermine the streighthth and effectiveness of said board meetings. This will weaken our National

Organization and eventually affect our local Chapter as well. Wallace pointed out that he has over the years spent an average of \$10,000 per year OUT OF HIS POCKET to attend these very same meetings. I was shocked by this yet it is easy to see. This years Convention is on the West Coast....The cost from our mid-west location would be staggering. These costs and continued effectiveness is the very things out National Officers are reviewing and making changes too. Wallace will have a very in-depth re-view in the coming months. Please make it a point to pay attention. It IS important to our Chapter and the over all health of our National Organization.

If you missed the April meeting, you also missed the conclusion of Dr. Fred Ripley's 1980's era slide coverage of the former Pennsylvania Railroad in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. I find this type of program to be very informative and very one on one. I like the idea of asking questions of the author and/or photographer about the location, time or element of the program. It is not very rewarding to ask the DVD player!

This, as you might expect, brings me to make a point...again! There should be one or two dates left for the year to sign up for a program or refreshments. SO...it is not too late to do so.

The May meeting is in Hopkinsville KY, hosted by our Hop'town members. Try to find time to be there, I assure everyone of a good time of trains, rail history and fellowship.

Rick Bivins

June Program

David Hayes will present
"Hauling on the
Horse Branch"
IC's Branch Line to
Owensboro, KY
Monday, June 27, 7pm

Thoughts and Prayers

For Chapter Members experiencing
health challenges

Continue to remember Jim Finley and family as he battles cancer.

If you know of members who are ill, or have been recently hospitalized, please forward the information to me, bill@fbcmadisonville.com.

Flood Photo Section



Above: This is a picture of the north approach to the Cairo bridge over the Ohio River. If you are going thru Cairo and approach the "Tunnel" thru the approach you will see a school on the left. This picture was taken from the school parking lot. This happened the same night the levee was blown and crews found the collapse around 5 A.M. They aren't sure if the damage was from the shaking of the explosion or rain damage or both. CN is bringing in rock to begin repairing the damage and as you can see they are burying old hoppers as part of the reinforcement. This and following photographs submitted by Jim Futrell.



PHOTO SECTION



Above: Taken on the CN at Obion, TN, on or around the evening of 5/4/11. Photograph submitted by Andrew Futrell.

General Electric Announces New Plant in Fort Worth From Railway Age (www.railwayage.com) Submitted by Chris Dees



GE
Transportation

GE Transportation said Friday that it intends to open a new 900,000 square foot locomotive manufacturing facility in Fort Worth, Tex., “to meet accelerating global demand.” GE said it will invest up to \$96 million in the new plant and will create more than 500 new high-tech manufacturing jobs.

At the same time, GE Transportation also will expand its manufacturing workforce at its Erie, Pa., plant by hiring an additional 250 workers.

“GE Transportation is experiencing strong U.S. and global growth because of its technical leadership and we need to increase our manufacturing capacity and flexibility,” said GE Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Immelt. “This new state-of-the-art plant in Fort Worth, Texas will produce the world’s most advanced locomotives and transportation products, expand our service and repair capability, and create hundreds of new high-tech manufacturing jobs.”

“We are excited to expand our operational footprint in the United States to better serve our customers,”

added Lorenzo Simonelli, President and CEO of GE Transportation. “We see robust growth in the U.S. and around the globe. A new site will help us to effectively respond to the cyclical demand in the transportation industry and to strengthen our overall position.”

The State of Texas will commit up to \$4.2 million in incentives toward the project through the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF). GE Transportation said its new manufacturing site in the U.S. will complement its existing manufacturing operations in North America. The company noted it has recalled approximately 800 production workers at its Erie manufacturing facility since late 2010 and announced 450 new jobs since April (including those announced Friday). GE Transportation operates at more than 50 GE and customer facilities in the United States.

<http://www.railwayage.com/breaking-news/ge-to-open-texas-locomotive-plant-3142.html>

Pickin' the Points

Editorial Comments by Anyone Interested

Charolais Coal Switchers Scrapped

Ricky Bivins



Our beloved ex-Illinois Central Railroad SW-9 switchers at St. Charles KY are gone. High scrap prices and a level of aggravation were key factors in Donald Bowles decision to cut them up. As sad as it is to us rail fans, I must come to Donald’s defense. Here are the factors or reasons Donald decided to dismantle the units.

Several weeks ago a local Kentucky State Trooper was east bound on Hwy 62 at St. Charles. He saw two men removing parts from #1247 which was the orange and white unit used as a parts store for the two operating units. The Trooper was suspicious first because they had only small tools and second their car, not a truck but a car was parked by the road...not inside the gate. He called Donald’s office, knowing Don and his secretary Jill, he ask if Donald had anyone at the facility removing parts etc. Jill called Don in Florida, Don called Luke whom I will get to in a moment. Neither Don nor Luke nor Jill knew of any reason someone should be there removing parts from the locomotive(s). The Trooper called for back up and the arrest was made.

Luke is Donald’s Nephew; Luke is a computer technician turned salvage dealer. Donald is helping Luke with his Pull a Part style salvage yard which will be located on Donald’s former mine sight at St. Charles. After surveying the damage to #1247 Donald told Luke to finish cutting it up and use the money to further his salvage yard operation. Then Donald told Luke to cut up #1250 which had suffered a busted piston years before we went down to “play” with #1249. At this point #1249, “our Locomotive for a few years”, was spared.

Having worked for Donald for many years, I know him well; I know how he thinks for the most part. First, one does not go to Donald with a problem for him to answer, one goes to him with an answer to a problem for him to approve. If I were to go to him for an answer, he would become very agitated. I was hired to think as well as work. Usually he would approve my “answer” or tell me what he wanted me to do if he did not approve my way. Second, Donald is an aggressive man, he does not wait for things to happen, he makes things

(Continued on page 7)

Next Month!

- ⇒ The Sub That Sank the Train!
Story of the USS Barb
- ⇒ Rules are Rules: How Rail
Rules Can Defy Common Sense
- ⇒ More Pix from The Gap
- ⇒ Remembering the 1974
Tornado Outbreak in IN



SUMMERAIL AT C.U.T.

Saturday, August 13, 2011

**1:00 pm to 10:00 pm
and**

**Railroad Show and Sale
in the Rotunda**

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Cincinnati Union Terminal
1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio**

Join us at this historic art deco railroad terminal to escape the summer heat and enjoy a day of high quality railroad photography. There will be twelve multimedia digital and dual-projector slide presentations, all set to music. The programs will run from 1:00 - 10:00 pm, with a break for dinner (on your own) approximately from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Admission is \$20.

More info on the web at <http://cincinnatiirclub.org/Summerail/index.shtml>



Support Area Railway Museums

<http://www.kyrail.org/>



<http://www.indianarailwaymuseum.org/>



<http://www.irm.org/>



<http://tcry.org/>

NRHS Mission Statement

National Railway Historical Society, Inc.
Mission Statement - The National Railway Historical Society promotes railway heritage preservation and educates its members and the public about rail transportation, its history and impact, with a focus on North America.

Objectives

1. To foster the experience of rail transportation
2. To develop and expand educational services and programs
3. To build and maintain archives, to encourage and to support archival activities, and to disseminate information in archives
 - A. To increase collaboration between existing archives
 - B. To develop listing of National and Chapter archives
4. To support preservation of memorabilia and
5. artifacts
6. To facilitate association and networking
7. To maintain and grow the organization

Minutes Summary and Financial Report

March 2011 minutes and treasurer's report approved.

Directors Report: Wallace recommended voting for the new (National) regulations. He gave brief info on them and will give more details next month. He urged all members to mail their proxies. The new regulations will take effect in fall of 2012. He also reported on a possible donation of slides to NRHS and gave chapter statistics for the Kentucky chapters: Paducah 42 members, Madisonville (West Kentucky) 39, Louisville 26, Kentucky Central (Lexington) 26, and Owensboro 24.

Old Business: Brief discussion on our archives and those in Nortonville. We are good to go for the three Friday Nigh Live events in downtown Madisonville. Dates are June 10, July 8, and August 12. More details later. Hours are 6 to 9pm. We will check on cost of brochures from Happy's and Clayton Hall Printing.

New Business: No new business. Meeting adjourned for program by Fred Ripley and refreshments by Steve Miller.

Next Meeting: Monday May 23, at the former L&N depot in Hopkinsville, KY. Program and refreshments will be the responsibility of the Hopkinsville members.

Members Present: Wally Watts, Ricky Bivins, David Millen, Steve Miller, Wallace Henderson, D. A. Fraser, Bill Thomas, Tom Johnson, Keith Kittinger, Chuck Hinrichs, Dennis Carnal, Thomas Bryan, Jim Bryan, Tim Moore, Danny Koeber, Fred Ripley, and Rich Hane.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2011, with program by Fred Ripley: Continuation of PRR East of Pittsburg. Refreshments

Switchers Scraped Continued...

happen. He is almost always correct and one does not second guess him. If I wanted or needed something for the airport or personal....approaching him was something that had to be done with precision, and more than once. But at the same time if he becomes irritated by one's actions, that person can toss the idea or need out the window. If he is not kept informed...same result. The key point here is "balance".

As an example, when I started building my house I ask to use some equipment from his shop. A Bobcat skid steer loader and a Hitachi backhoe. Donald graciously allowed my use of same, at his expense. While using the Bobcat I cut a tire beyond saving. I called the tire service company, had them replace the tire etc. The cost was several hundred dollars. Don only mentioned that he had a spare tire at the shop that could have been used. But he was not upset with me because I didn't know about the spare tire. He seemed pleased that I simply "fixed the Problem". Donald Bowles is a generous man.

The locomotives at St. Charles were tools to him. Just as a D-11 Caterpillar tractor or HaulPak off road truck. Once they had served out their usefulness....they were of no value to him. However...I had for the past few years talked with him about saving one of the units and donating it to KRM. He had agreed to this and we even discussed using his lowboy truck to haul it to New Haven KY! I informed Donald of the Museums WWII era MRS-1 that was in need of a prime mover and another locomotive that would benefit from the other operating parts while the unit itself would be cosmetically restored. Donald even told Luke not to cut up the 1249 because "it is going to a museum".

And then one man steps in and changes everything. While

by Steve Miller.

Members Present: D. A. Fraser, Wally Watts, Ricky Bivins, Steve Miller, Rich Hane, Wallace Henderson, Tim Moore, Fred Ripley, and Thomas Bryan.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report Date: April 25, 2011 by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance	1158.09
Income:	
National Dues Received	86.00
Chapter Dues Received	7.00
Donations/Raffle	13.00
Other (Royalty-Neff Video)	15.00
Total:	121.00
Adjusted Balance	1279.09
Expenditures:	
National Dues Paid.	0.00
Supplies	0.00
Printing	0.00
Other (Rail Camp Scholarship for Thomas Bryan)	425.00
Total:	425.00
Ending Balance:	854.09
Membership Statistics	
Beginning Membership	46
National Members Added	0
National Members Dropped	0
Chapter Members Added	1
Chapter Members Dropped	0
Ending Membership	47

Luke was working on the two units to be scrapped a man drives up and informs Luke he has talked to Donald about parts from the locomotive. Luke said this guy had the manners of a high pressure car salesman. Luke, knowing Donald could very well have talk to some one, called Donald on the phone. Don said he had talked to the man before etc. While Luke is on the phone with Donald, this guy is yelling "I have cash money" and spitting out dollar figures etc. Donald had had enough. He told Luke while the guy was spitting off "do I look like a guy that needs cash money"? Luke is in the middle of this and knows full well the whole salvage yard thing could collapse at any moment. Don tells Luke "look over your right shoulder". Don was sitting just over Daniel Boone hill....hovering in the Helicopter! Don tells Luke to "tell that blankity blank to get off my blankity blank property and to cut that blankity blank locomotive up"! And so it came to pass.

I was involved in the whole ordeal, I gathered up the paper work for the units to forward to other scrape dealers for quotes etc. I did this on my own time as I no longer work for Donald. I felt I owed him something for the many times he helped me. Some of the parts were "parted out" and will be reused. I was surprised to learn, the prime movers were of little value, even in running order. The crank shafts had the most value. The electrical cabinets were hit hard by the copper worms i.e. thieves. And at local scrap

(Continued on page 8)

TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - May 23, Hopkinsville, Christian Co. Historical Society, 7pm.
- Nickel Plate 765 Excursions, several dates this summer, <http://www.hoosiervalley.org/visit/schedules/steam-excursions/>
- Rock Island IL Train Festival, July 21-24, 2011, <http://www.trainfestival2011.com>
- Summerail at CUT, August 13. See page 6 for details.

Switchers Scraped Continued... prices of \$225.00 per ton, at 124 tons each... \$27,000.00 plus times three units, this equates to a sizable sum of money. Money Donald gave to Luke to help him get started in business, which is just the type of thing Donald would do.

Donald wants Luke to do well so he decided to help. One man in just a few minutes was able to turn years of timed effort into a frustration for Donald. Run out equipment to Donald has little or zero value. These were all factors in Donald's decision to cut them up. But most of all Donald is in control of Donald and Donald's estate. And what he says goes.

I tried and almost succeeded at getting one of them saved. I can rest knowing all that could have been done, was done.

As a side note, I ask Donald if I could have a souvenir from one of the locomotives. He said "get what ever you want, and tell Luke I said so"! I did and Luke even helped.

PENNYRAIL is your publication. If you have photographs or other material of current or historical interest that you would like to share with Chapter members, your editor would appreciate hearing from you. Your material will receive the best of care while being readied for publication. Your help is appreciated.
Bill Thomas, editor
bill@fbcmadisonville.com

AS RAILFANS WE ARE OFTEN AT TRACKSIDE AND IN POSITION TO OBSERVE EMERGENCY CONDITIONS THAT COULD AFFECT RAILROAD SAFETY OR SECURITY. KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY TO REPORT INCIDENTS.

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www.kyrail.org/
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Illinois RR Historical Society
<http://icrrhistorical.org/>
Illinois Railway Museum
www.irm.org/
Tennessee Central Railway Museum
www.tcry.org/

VISIT THE CHAPTER WEB SITE: <http://www.westkentuckynrhs.org>

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