

PENNYRAIL

July 2016

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Please send your digital photos and story material to billtrainthomas@gmail.com

or mail to

Bill Thomas,
Coldwell Banker
Terry & Associates
1096 N. Main St.
Madisonville, KY
42431.



Chapter Chatter

In this issue...

- ◆ Words From Our President
- ◆ Photos
- ◆ Book Review by Ricky Bivins

**Next Meeting Monday,
July 18, 2016,
7:00 pm
L&N Depot
Madisonville, KY**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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President
Bill Farrell

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“PENNYRAIL” is the official publication of the Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS. Send news notes, historical notes and other rail information to:

Editor
Bill Thomas

1025 Lakewood Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431
(270) 339-9482 Cell
e-mail:
billtrainthomas@gmail.com

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 artifacts
5. To facilitate association and networking
6. To support preservation of memorabilia and artifacts
7. To maintain and grow the organization



Bird's eye view of those in attendance at the June meeting held at the home of Bill and Angela Thomas, Madisonville.

I know many of our members have thanked Bill Thomas for opening up his home to us for the June meeting. I would like to make it official just in case anyone forgot to thank Bill, thank you Bill. It was a great change of pace from the Madisonville Depot all though I really enjoy that old station. I need to thank the Terry family for supplying the hamburgers for last month's meeting. On a whole I though all the members who attended enjoyed themselves. As I looked around I saw lots of fellowship taking place with members just relaxed and enjoying themselves.

Congratulations to our photo contest winner Bill Grady and thank you to all the members who participated. Jim Pearson does a very good job with judging all the photos entered. Our next photo contest will take place from August 6-13 so keep those cameras ready. I think Jim has all the

entries from our past contest and it looks like we will have a great start on the 2017 club calendar. Jim and I will work on the calendar later on this this year. Let's keep this project in mind and support it by purchasing one or more calendars when they are printed in December.

We had several great items for the raffle last month let's keep it up. The raffle is our only source of revenue at this time, so dig deep into your railroad books and artifacts for some items you're not using. We have had some very interesting items come across the raffle table.

See you on Monday evening July 18th at the Madisonville Depot, 7:00 pm.
Bill Farrell, President

Bill Farrell, President

Pickin' the Points



Bird's Eye View!
If you own and use a computer or smart phone, you now have access to a great tool for locating rail lines and more interestingly,

abandoned rail lines.

Lately, I've enjoyed Elmer G. Sulzer's *Ghost Railroads of Kentucky* first published in 1967, by Indiana University Press (originally by Vane A. Jones Company) which presents 23 chapters of railroads that used to be. Chapter 18 unpacks the history of the L&N's and IC's adventures through Clay, Dixon, Morganfield and Henderson, KY, right in our back door.

Now back to the computer and/or smart phone. I've begun to "mentally overlay" the satellite images available on sites like Google Earth and other mapping apps on Sulzer's maps provided in the book. The drawback to the latter is that there are no roads mapped in Sulzer's book, just rivers, streams, county and state lines. You have to be a little creative, but it's fun to

find some of these places on the computer screen then visit in person. And, if you have the smart phone map app, it will pinpoint your location as you move.

Many of you are probably familiar with this technology as am I, but I wanted to share the possibilities with those who may just be getting caught up with it.

As a side note, also included in Sulzer's book are railroads which once served Russellville, Adairville, Gracey, Princeton, Elkton, Guthrie, Hartford, Irvington, and Falls of Rough.

Mr. Sulzer also published *Ghost Railroads of Tennessee* and *Ghost Railroads of Indiana*. I'm looking forward to browsing through both of these in the near future. All are available on Amazon.com.

Bill



Photos from June Meeting

Here are some photos from our June Meeting at Bill Thomas's home and Garden Railroad.



Photos On the Road!

I would never promote taking photos while driving, but I couldn't pass this up - actually, I did pass it! I would guess this is an order coming out of Siemens Automation in Marion, KY. I didn't get the name on the side of the truck.
Bill Thomas, editor



Below: July 1, 2016 - Autorack CSX Q241-30 (Detroit, MI – Louisville, KY) makes its way through downtown La Grange, Ky (one of the few places in the state that has street running) as it heads south to Louisville, Ky on the Short Line (LCL Subdivision). – Tech Info: 1/400 | f/20 | ISO 900 | Lens: Sigma 150-600 @ 165mm with a Nikon D800 shot and processed in RAW. - Photo by Jim Pearson



Photos No Matter the Weather!



Left: June 15, 2016
- I chased the leading edge of this storm front for about 20 miles till I finally caught CSX Q592-15 approaching the south end of the siding at Kelly, Ky as it headed north on the Henderson Subdivision. As dark and nasty as the sky looked, all it did was dump a lot of rain and create some lighting and fortunately for me it didn't do it while I was shooting! –
Tech Info: 1/400 | f/2.8 | ISO 900 |
Lens: Nikon 18mm with a Nikon D800 shot and processed in RAW. - Photo by Jim Pearson

Right: July 6, 2016 – Norfolk Southern Tier4 engine 3616 heads up a loaded coal train as it heads north on the Paducah and Louisville Railway cutting its way through steam rising from the roadbed after a summer rain outside Bremen, Ky. - Tech Info: 1/320 | f/6.3 | ISO 500 | Lens: Sigma 150-600 @ 600mm with a Nikon D800 shot and processed in RAW. - Photo by Jim Pearson



We need more photos from the membership! Use your smart phones, Polaroids, Brownies, Range Finders, SLRs, etc. I can scan almost any photo and use it. Editor.

Book Review By Ricky Bivins

In 1984 I was working for Andalex Resources as a supply truck driver. My friend from school, Tim Kingery was managing the Salvation Army Thrift Store and would alert me to any "train stuff" the store received. That summer he called my work place (no cell phones in 1984) and left a message for me to come by the store. He had taken in a book titled "Flying Sparks".

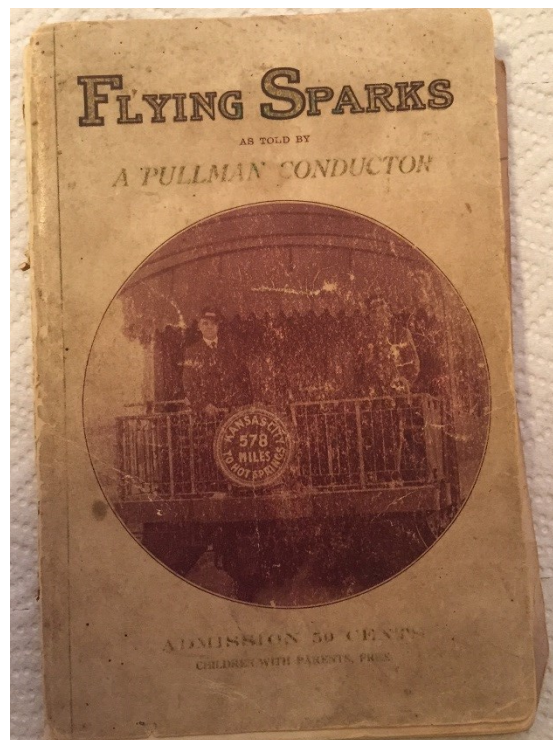


Of course I purchased the book and read it immediately.

The book is a series of letters penned by a Missouri Pacific passenger train conductor to his then eight year old niece. His niece had requested of her uncle a description of his work and the places he visited. This all takes place in or before 1914! The style of writing is as interesting as the stories themselves.



I have enjoyed this book for thirty plus years now and will continue to do so. Hopefully you will as well as I intend to recount portions of the book as a regular Newsletter feature.



P R E F A C E .

TO THE PUBLIC:

In writing this letter, the history of my trip from Kansas City to Hot Springs through Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, to my niece, it was not my intention to get it before the public. However, so many of my friends wanted a copy that they insisted on my having it published, and those who have read a portion of the manuscript said it was too good not to put before the reading public, as it was so interesting and instructive, as well as historical.

In compiling the facts, I obtained this information first-handed from people who lived in towns along the route. Many of them were of the old frontier school, who had seen and realized the facts in actual life. "Without a love for books, the richest man is poor."

"The world is dead without happiness." The sweetness in this life" is found in the way you live it. If we could all look on the bright side of life, how much happier we would be. A good hearty laugh is a good thing. It aids digestion and makes you feel as though life is

P R E F A C E .

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worth living. Therefore, in the caboose end of the book, I have some riddles and funny sayings. A love of poetry is a good trait in man, so I have some comic, as well as sentimental, poems which will please you. One dose of this mixture is guaranteed to cure the worst case of blues. Our family physician always told us it was the last dose of medicine that cured. Therefore, if you will take every dose throughout this book, it will leave a good taste in your mouth. This book is like a ripe watermelon because it is re(a)d all the way through. When opened, you will find the dainty sweetness within. Guaranteed by the author.

M. E. MUNSELL,
Kansas City, Missouri

We look forward to hearing more from Ricky next month about this book. Editor.

The Interchange *Expanded*

THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT!

Enco 8' X 30" vertical knee mill. 1 1/2 HP 110V motor. R8 spindle with collets. Includes Palmgren 4" vise, work clamping kit, angle table, and cast iron angle plate. This mill sells new by Grizzly Imports for \$3450 with no accessories. Purchaser must move it. \$1750 complete. Bob McCracken (270)584-3340



TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- July 16 - Adams, TN, Steam Days
- July 18 - Monthly meeting at L&N Depot
- Crofton Chapter Picnic - September 24

If you know of regional events we can put on the Timetable, please forward those to me,
bill@fbcmadisonville.com.



Ed. *One more by Jim Pearson - can't help but think about O. Winston Link seeing this.* July 9, 2016 – LORAM Rail grinder RGS-9 waits in the siding at the north end of Robards, Ky as southbound loaded coal train CSX N040-05 passes it on CSX's Henderson Subdivision. - Tech Info: 3 seconds | f/2.8 | ISO 125 | Lens: Nikon 18mm with a Nikon D800 shot and processed in RAW. - Photo by Jim Pearson (*forgive me for cropping*)

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

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

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% Bill Thomas, Editor
1025 Lakewood Drive
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