

PENNYRAIL

June 2019

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 6

Please send your digital photos and story material to billtrainthomas@gmail.com or mail to **Bill Thomas**, First Christian Church 1030 College Dr. Madisonville, KY 42431.



Chapter Chatter

In this issue...

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Next Meeting
Monday June 17
Food available by 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:00

Home of Bill Thomas
1025 Lakewood Drive
Madisonville, KY

Program:
Garden Railroad
And Cookout

Bring a lawn chair!
If you have G gauge equipment you would like to run, feel free to bring it. Trains run on 0-18 volts DC or battery.

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
* * * * *

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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:

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Abridged
Issue

Morton's Gap Photo Gallery



Due to a tight vacation schedule I present you this abridged version of the June 2019 PennyRail. I hope to see you at the June meeting on the 17th, at our home, 1025 Lakewood Dr, Madisonville. Grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, and sides will be served. Business reports will be presented at the meeting. Bring a guest!

Bill



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 maintain and grow the organization

History of a Garden Railroad - Bill Thomas



In April 2005, Liam (age 5) is helping me set boundary stones.

I was fortunate to have Ron Johnson as a friend and neighbor. He freely loaned me his Kubota front-end loader to move dirt to the railroad area. I was careful to keep dirt away from the base of my big hickory tree. The depressed area around the tree is now covered with Vinca vines.



It's been my pleasure over our 16 years here in Madisonville to share my backyard with friends, family, neighbors, and many others. I hope the meeting on the 17th is on your calendar. Feel free to bring spouses, friends, children, or pets. Bill



Photography Contest News

All members are invited to submit no more than two entries each to webmaster@westkentuckynrhs.org. You must be a paid member of the chapter to participate in these contests. Your photo must have been shot between June 15-30th. The Membership will judge the photos at the meeting following each contest and select 1st through 3rd place. The winners will be published in the PennyRail and on the chapter website. At least the 1st place winners will be used to produce a chapter calendar for the next year.

June 15-30
Submission Deadline: July 10, 2019
Our next contest will run:
July 15-31, 2019
Submission Deadline: August 7, 2019



Golden Spike Debacle

Earlier this month, May 10th, marked the 150th Anniversary of the Gold Spike ceremony at Promontory, Utah. I thought it appropriate to rerun this picture story from a few years ago.



The "Thank God it's Friday" graphic is one of several intro's for my slide shows to groups. It's good for a laugh, however, the 1869 meeting of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific in Utah was somewhat similar. Rather than joining in such a slip-shod manner, they simply passed one another, and kept on going. Seems the two railroads were being reimbursed by the Government for work performed, by the mile. The joining of the rails at Promontory, about three miles around the bend in the picture, was the result of a negotiated settlement.



In the picture, you can easily see the railroad right-of-way on a fill. That is the work of the Central Pacific, charging eastward into the picture. But look closely to the left half of the picture. You can see two earthen bridgeheads with a gap in between. The distant one is easy to see, the other is in the foreground, lower left of the pix. The Union Pacific, working westward, filled the gap with a trestle, long since lost to the elements, salvage, or fire..... not sure.

If you go to Google Earth, you can see both landmarks by tracing the twin right's-of-ways of both railroads eastward from the Gold Spike Monument site. In a little over three rail miles, or 2.8 the way the crow flies you will see clearly the filled curve, the bridgehead a little less obvious. (Hint: use the ruler in the tool bar, to gauge the distance.)

Credits: (Artwork, unk., can anyone out there ID the artist.?) Photo by Drake Hokanson as seen in TRAINS Mag June 2015

The Bumper

Chapter Interchange Track

Bill Thomas - I'm looking for HO scale detail parts found at an engine service facility in the early 60s to mid 70s.

If you have items for sale or looking for a particular item or items, Email me at billtrainthomas@gmail.com with the information and I will list it here.



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
billtrainthomas@gmail.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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CN/IC 800-465-9239
CSX 800-232-0144
NS 800-453-2530
UP 888-877-7267
Amtrak 800-331-0008

TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

June 17 - Chapter Meeting at Bill Thomas' home - 1025 Lakewood Dr. Madisonville

July 15 - Chapter Meeting at Innovation Station (L&N Depot) Madisonville

August 19 - Chapter Meeting at Innovation Station (L&N Depot) Madisonville

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

National Railway Historical Society

www.nrhs.com

Railway Preservation News

www.rypn.org/

Kentucky Railway Museum

www.kyrail.org/

Indiana Railway Museum and French

Lick Scenic Railway

www.indianarailwaymuseum.org

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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