

PENNYRAIL

February 2020

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 2

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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- ♦ Chapter Interchange Track
- ♦ Minutes & Financial Report
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Next Meeting
Monday
February 17
7:00 pm

Innovation Station
(Former L&N Depot)
Main Line & Arch St

Program

Refreshments Served

Below: Chapter members and guests enjoy train night at Keith Kittinger's HO layout.



Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

* * * * *

President
Ricky Bivins

Vice President
Steve Miller

Secretary-Treasurer
Bill Farrell

National Director
Will Kling

Director at Large
Keith Kittinger

"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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Two IC Lanterns For Sale
See Details in the Chapter Interchange on page 6



Crofton Receives Gift from Chapter



Left: from left to right; Mayor Danny Lacy, Ricky Bivins, Demsie Ezell, and Bill Farrell. Chapter President, Ricky Bivins, presenting a check to Crofton Mayor Danny Lacy to be used on the cities War Memorial Park.

On Thursday the 6th of February, Ricky Bivins and Bill Farrell drove to Crofton, Kentucky to make a presentation of two hundred dollars. These funds were presented to the Crofton City Council to be used for their War Memorial Park. If you have never been to this small community alongside of the CSX track in Northern Christian County at night, you should. This community is on the upswing with new businesses and civic improvements all along highway 41. The most noticeable is the new War Memorial Park which was completed about eighteen months ago. If you drive through at night you can't miss it, clean, neat, and all lite up.

After we made the presentation of the check, we were invited to say a few words on behalf of our chapter and NRHS. Ricky did a great job of thanking their city council for all they do in allowing the chapter to have our annual picnic on Crofton City property each fall. One of the biggest assets we get is, the use of the restrooms in city hall. Mayor Danny Lacy and the entire city council were very appreciative of the check and made it known that the Western Kentucky Chapter members were always welcome to the City of Crofton.

An idea was brought forth to the members of their council that were present. The idea of a small railroad museum dedicated to the preservation of L&N and the CSX railroads. It was pointed out that the city of Crofton was in a prime location for a venue of this type. The fact that the city is divided by the main line of CSX makes it a perfect location for a museum and "railfanning". We pointed out that I-169 is just three quarters of a mile from downtown Crofton. Spring, summer and fall would be perfect for tourism in this little North Christian community. The Western Kentucky Chapter members have enough L&N, and CSX artifacts that we could fill most any building they might want to use. Of course, any item used in the museum would be on loan by the owner. We offered our assistance in this effort if the city wanted to explore the possibilities in the future.

As a group we talked for about twenty-five or thirty minutes. All people present seemed very interested in a project of this nature. Ricky and myself pointed out the possibilities of obtaining money for such a project through local and federal grants. At one point I turned to Ricky and said "we have to leave; we are using up all their council meeting time". Before leaving Mayor Lacy brought up an idea of having a structure erected that would resemble the old Crofton depot so people could sit and watch CSX rolling stock pass through their fair city.

As Ricky and I stepped out into the cold snow filled air, we too were excited about the possibilities for this small town. As we made our way through the parking lot, I couldn't help notice the excitement in my comrade's voice. I asked him would he be willing to work on such a project, of course the answer was, yes.

As I turned my SUV south on highway 41, I couldn't help to think about Mayor Lacey's idea of building a permanent structure for people to sit under. Then it hit me, what about the old Sebree, Kentucky depot? What a perfect fit for Crofton, a station built by L&N brought back to life beside its former main line.

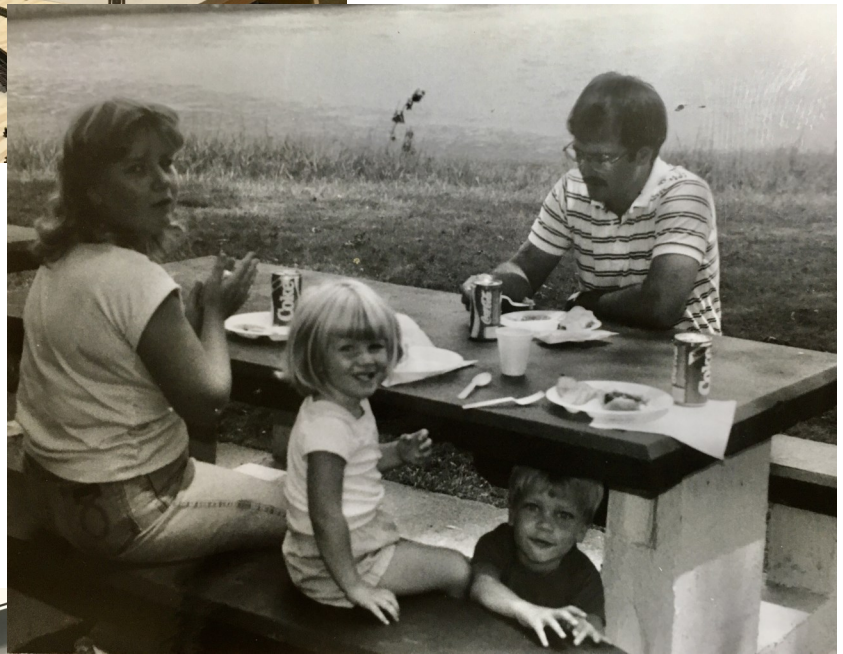
Just before Ricky and I departed for the evening I told him, "the ball is now in Crofton's hands, let's see what they do with it".

Photo Gallery



Left: Chapter members enjoy some fellowship and bull talk at the Kittinger's last week.

Right: Keith Kittinger & family. Pre-CSX safety picnic. Madisonville City Park. Aug. 1985.



Left: Train bud Phil Randall stopped in January 23, 2020.

We ran trains on my Valley Steel Lines O Gauge layout. - Ricky Bivins

Photo Gallery Continued

Inserts: Another craft superseded by technology, automation: Switch-tenders and grade-crossing guards. The grade separation story about Oklahoma City last February included pictures of grade-crossing shanties. Some were rather elaborate, and a certain “ownership” was obvious. Note the Good-Luck horseshoe over the doorway in the picture above, along with the bench for outdoor comfort.

Many if not most of those positions were filled by employees injured on the job. These men were able to remain employed, and achieve their deserved retirement benefits.

The handy broom hanging on the wall does double duty, sweeping dirt out the door, and snow out of switch-points. Switch-Tenders received their instructions for routing incoming trains from the Yardmaster. They usually assisted the “herder” with departing trains.

In my home-town, Tacoma, Washington, there was an



elevated tower on the double-track that crossed Pacific Avenue, perhaps the busiest street in

town. On double track these towers had to be high enough to monitor the movements on both tracks. For years the gentleman manning that tower had a warning system alerting him of snoopy inspectors. He used fish-line to serve as a trip-wire on the steps leading to this elevated tower, whereupon anyone coming up the stairs would jiggle tin-cans or bottles. That way he could wake-up, and/or quickly hide his bottle.

The switchman shanty at East End in the Cheyenne yard is visible behind the smoke and steam escaping from the boiler pressure relief valves. A similar arrangement existed at the other end of the huge yard. - Gary Ostland

Credits: Shanty – Emil Albrecht photo, Don Strack collection, #9040, a three-cylinder 4-12-2 – photo by James L. Ehernberger



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. 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.

See photo contest dates in The Time Table on page 7!



Minutes from January 2020

President Ricky Bivins called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, January 20, 2020. There was a total of 11 members and 4 guest present for the meeting.

The minutes from the November 18,2019 meeting were approved as printed in the club bulletin (PennyRail).

The treasurers report was given by Bill Farrell, of 1, 953.87. The treasures report was approved.

Old Business:

President Bivins called on Steve Miller for a report on the Don Clayton slides. Steve reported that the committee was almost finished with the project. Bill Farrell gave a report on a club jacket. Almost all the jackets are out with the exception of 2 or 3. Ricky reported that the Christmas party at Catfish Harbor on December 7 seemed to be a success.

A report on Breakfast with Santa was given and the club made a total \$36.21. There was some discussion on whether the project would be continued next year. Bill Farrell reported the winner of the toy train raffle took the 100.00 opposed to the Lionel Ready to run layout. A final report on how much was made on the raffle should be ready next meeting in February.

Jim Pearson reported we are in the middle of the January, Photo Contest. Jim also reported that the club calendars can be bought on line by going to LULU.com.

The Chapter will be making a 200.00 donation to the city of Crofton on February 3. This will take place at their city council meeting. The money will be used for improvements on the Crofton Memorial Park. President Ricky Bivins and Sec/Trea. Bill Farrell will be making the presentation.

New Business

President Bivins reported that an IC speeder had been given to him and Keith Kittinger. They would like the chapter to help work on the speeder as a club project. Ricky will be applying for a Heritage Grant from NRHS to help restore the item. He needs matching money in order to complete the application. Keith said he thought 1,000.00 would be more than enough to complete the restoration. Bill Thomas made a motion that we talk to people for donations in order to raise the money. The motion was seconded by Will Kling, motion passed.

Christmas 2020 program was put on hold until later on in the year. We will discuss the possibilities for next Christmas.

Steve Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Keith Kittinger, motion carried.

Business meeting was adjourne d.

Respectfully;

William Farrell

Reminder

Hats are in and will be at the February meeting.
The cost is 10.00 per hat and I (Bill Farrell) will take check or cash. Members may purchase as many hats as they would like, we bought extra.
By the way the hats look very good in gray with the club logo on them.

COME ON UP! Those three words – used almost universally by engineers to invite visitors into their locomotive cabs – are among the most thrilling a train-watcher can hear. They signal access, however temporary, to the most alluring of railroading’s inner sanctums.



Although we may also be drawn to other places, some that reveal even more about how a railroad functions – dispatcher’s office, caboose, boardroom, backshop, interlocking tower – none of these matches the engine cab for its combination of public visibility, crew-only exclusivity, and sheer excitement.

Spend enough time around the railroad, and circumstances eventually tend to result in invitations to visit, or even ride in, engine cabs. For most of us, these are rare glimpses into a realm to which we’ve been attracted since childhood. Memories of these occasions stand like trophies on our mental mantelpiece.

Today, an increased emphasis on safety and security are threatening to make those “Come on up” moments extinct. In any case, the cab experience for crews in vastly different now” steam locomotives are gone, employees are fewer, equipment is more uniform. - Gary Ostlund

Credits: Photo of NYC Hudson #5403 by noted photographer, the late Phil Hastings as seen in *Classic Trains*, Summer 2014. Notice how Hastings managed to get a silhouette of the engineer, usually unseen in pictures of the left side. Text by Robert S. McGonigal, Editor of *Classic Trains*, used verbatim. Bob’s right, other than a short visit in the cab of UP’s excursion locomotive #844 in the Summer of 2004, I cannot recall the last time I’ve responded to “come-on-up.” In that same magazine were six accounts in “Tales from the Cab.” Great stuff.

February 2020 Financial Report

1/1/2020	Beginning Balance		1,125.27
1/6/2020	Catfish Harbor	116	1,241.27
1/6/2020	Photo's Breakfast with Santa	45	1,286.27
1/6/2020	Lionel Train Raffle	270	1,556.27
	Paid 100.00 cash to winner		
1/6/2020	Check # 1245 P.O. Box Rental	92	1,464.27
1/6/2020	Check # 1246 Keith Kittinger, Fly/Santa	50	1,514.27
	Reimb.		
1/7/2020	Check # 1247 Ricky Bivins, Reimb. Santa	40	1,474.27
1/14/2020	Sale of Bells	36.6	1,510.87
1/21/2020	Members Dues	85	1,595.87
1/21/2020	Members Jackets	358	1,953.87
1/27/2020	Lionel Raffle	40	1,993.87
1/27/2020	Club Drawing	5	1,998.87
1/27/2020	Members Dues	25	2,023.87
1/27/2020	Members Jackets	87	2,110.87
1/27/2020	Contribution P. Bush	50	2,160.87
1/27/2020	Calendars	150	2,310.87
1/30/2020	Dues, 2019	10	2,320.87
1/30/2020	Lionel Raffle	20	2,340.87
1/30/2020	Donation	5	2,345.87
1/30/2020	Members Jackets	29	2,374.87
2/1/2020	Beginning Balance		2,374.87
2/3/2020	Check # 1248, City of Crofton	200	2,174.87
2/10/2020	Members Jacket	29	2,203.87
	Steve Gentry		
2/10/2020	Members Dues Steve Gentry	5	2,208.87
2/10/2020	Members Jacket, Ricky Bivins	29	2,237.87
	Members Jacket Ricky		
2/10/2020	Bivins	5	2,242.87
	rs Dues Ricky Bivins		
2/10/2020	Donation	16	2,258.87

The Bumper

Chapter Interchange Track

- ◆ Illinois Central Lanterns For Sale - Asking \$100 each. Contact David Bratcher at 270-836-4973 (pictures on front page) **Price is negotiable!**

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.

BNSF	800-832-5452
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

- February 17 - WKNRHS Meeting
- March 16 - WKNRHS Meeting
- Photo contest March 15-30, deadline Apr 7
- April 20 - WKNRHS Meeting
- May 18 - WKNRHS Meeting
- Photo contest May 15-30, deadline June 7
- June 15 - WKNRHS Meeting (At Bill Thomas's)

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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