

THE PENNYRAIL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
WEST KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF
THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Welcome to the new look of The PennyRail. I decided to go with a more condensed look and size since our contributions of material has slowly diminished over the last few years. I'll try to keep it to four pages but, if we have extra material, I can easily add to the electronic document.

We welcome our 2021 officers listed in the right column. You should have received your dues notice from our secretary-treasurer Bill Farrell recently so be sure to send your dues in as soon as possible.

If you have pictures, stories, or other info for the newsletter, please send it to me via email (billtrainthomas@gmail.com), text (270-339-9482), or for larger files, www.wetransfer.com (a free website for transferring large files). Remember, this is YOUR newsletter.

Enjoy! Bill Thomas, Editor



President-Keith Kittinger

Vice President-Steve Miller

Sec/Treas-Bill Farrell

Chapter Rep-Will Kling

Director at Large-Cooper Smith

Editor-Bill Thomas



South of Winifred, MT
Photo by Art Jacobson

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
From
Gary and Justine
Ostlund

It Will Never Be Built...Chris Dees

Have you ever imagined “what might have been” if certain proposed railroad lines had been built, or if routes had been slightly altered to go to City A versus City B? On-line and in-person research at libraries can shed some very interesting stories of would-be rail barons that failed to reach their dreams of pushing steel rails into America’s new frontier during the 1800s and 1900s. Even as late as 1965, Illinois Central’s Kentucky Division Track Profile contained a proposed line from Providence to Dawson Springs.

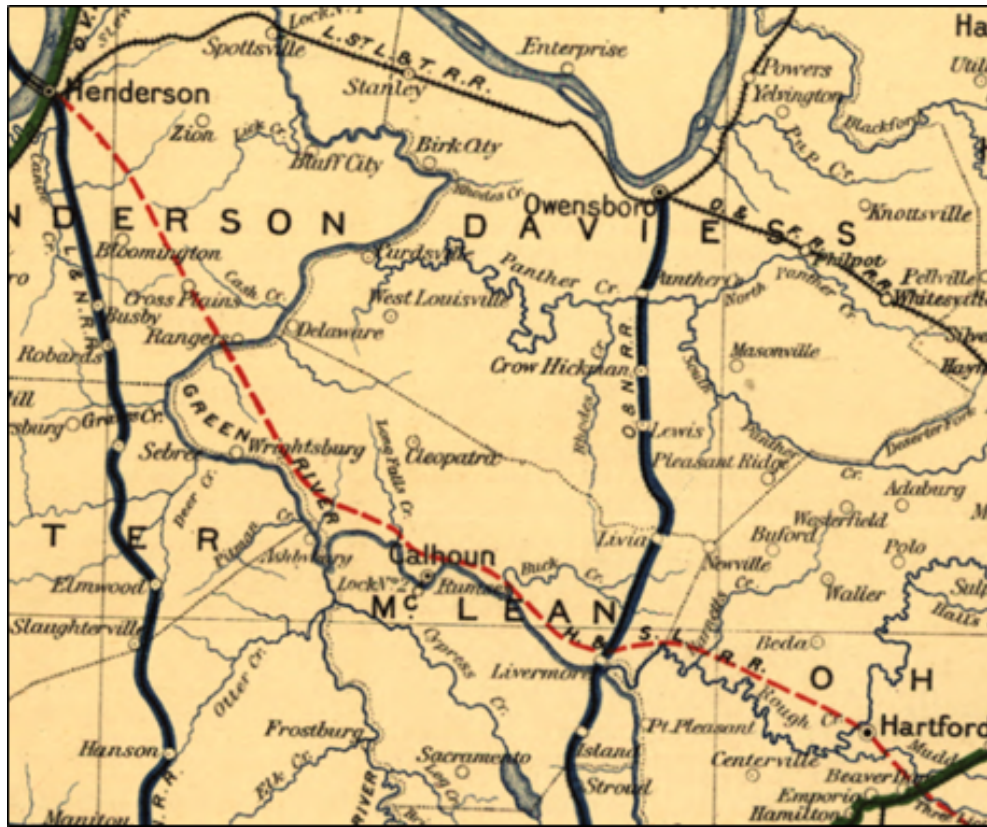
An 1891 map of Kentucky’s then current and proposed rail lines available through the Library of Congress’ website shows another railroad closer to the Pennyryle Region. This line, the proposed Henderson & State Line Railroad, was to run from Henderson southeast toward Bowling Green and Scottsville via Hartford. Mr. S.K. Sneed of Henderson was the H&SL’s president and tried to obtain funding through bond issuances in Henderson in 1899 to construct his railroad “from the foot of the L&N’s Ohio River bridge”. Unfortunately, the H&SL had some stiff competition with the LH&StL between Henderson and Owensboro, and the O&N between Owensboro and Russellville.

A March 28, 1899 Owensboro Messenger news article clearly stated “if the success of the Henderson & State Line depends on aid from Henderson, it will never be built.”

Two map segments showing proposed Henderson & State Line Railroad (H&SL).



Continued on page 3



NEWS BRIEFS



No January meeting due to high COVID rates in our area.

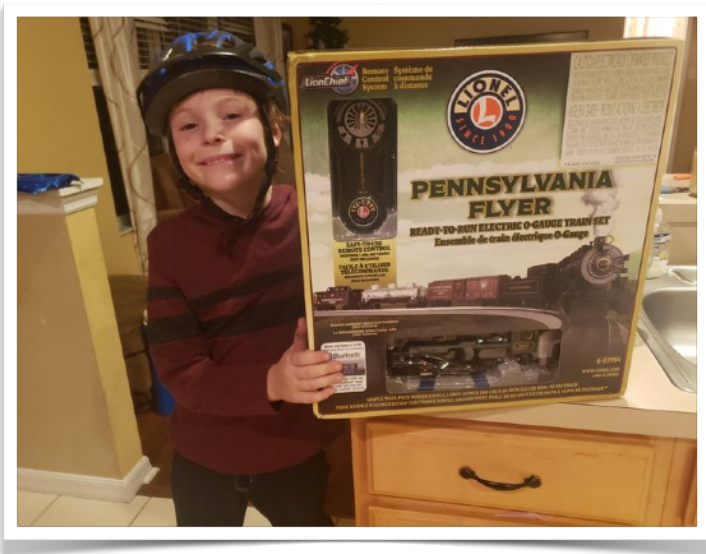


Send me your pictures and stories for the February edition by February 1

PHOTO CONTEST INFORMATION

Just as a reminder that our first Chapter Photo Contest for 2021 will run from 15-31 January 2021!

Each dues paying member is allowed to submit two photographs taken anywhere during the two weeks. Entries with captions should be sent to jim@jimpearsonphotography.com by midnight on February 7th, 2021.



Our Lionel Trainset Raffle was won by Zach Hardy, Minister to Children and Youth at First Christian Church, Madisonville. Zach quickly re-gifted the transit to his nephew by mail. I think that made his Christmas!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY 22 Blair Terry!